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OR

EDINBURGH AMUSEMENT.

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RETROSPECTIVE VIEW *of* AFFAIRS *relating to the* American *Colonies*. [P. 134.]

DURING theſe tranſactions at home, affairs were every day becoming more dangerous in America. Whatever heſitation or doubt might before have operated with the timid, or principles of caution and prudence with the moderate, they were now all removed by the determinations of the general congreſs. Theſe became immediately the political creed of the colonies, and a perfect compliance with their reſolutions was every where determined upon, as ſoon as the general ſenſe of the people could be obtained. The unanimity which prevailed throughout the continent was amazing. It was a new and wonderful thing to ſee the inhabitants of rich and great commercial countries, who had acquired a long eſtabliſhed habitual reliſh for the ſuperfluities and luxuries of foreign nations, all at once determined to abandon thoſe captivating allurements, and to reſtrain themſelves to bare neceſſaries. It was ſcarcely an object of greater admiration, that the merchant ſhould forego the advantages of commerce, the farmer ſubmit to the loſs of the ſale of his products and the benefits of his induſtry, and the ſeamen, with the numberleſs other perſons dependent upon trade, contentedly reſign the very means of livelihood, and truſt to a precarious ſubſiſtence from the public ſpirit or charity of the opulent. Such however was the ſpectacle, which America at that time, and ſtill in ſome degree, has exhibited to the world.

Great hopes were however placed on the ſucceſs of the petition from the continental congreſs to the throne. Nor was it ſuppoſed, that their general application to the people of England would have been unproductive of effect. A ſtill greater reliance was not unreaſonably placed upon the effect which the unanimity and determinations of the congreſs would produce, in influencing public opinions and meaſures at home.

Theſe hopes and opinions had for a time a conſiderable effect in reſtraining thoſe violences which afterwards took place. But however well they might ſeem to be founded, and however general their operation, the principal leaders, and moſt experienced men, did not appear to build much upon them, and accordingly made ſome preparation for the worſt that might happen. The ſouthern colonies

began to arm as well as the northern, and to train and exercise their militia; and as ſoon as advice was received of the proclamation iſſued in England to prevent the exportation of arms and ammunition to America, meaſures were ſpeedily taken to remedy the defect. For this purpoſe, and to render themſelves as independent as poſſible of foreigners for the ſupply of thoſe eſſential articles, mills were erected, and manufactories formed both in Philadelphia and Virginia, for the making of gun-powder, and encouragement given in all the colonies for the fabrication of arms of every ſort. Great difficulties however attended theſe beginnings; and the ſupply of powder, both from the home manufacture and the importation, was for a long time ſcanty and precarious.

The governor's proclamation againſt the provincial congreſs in Maſſachuſett's Bay, had not the ſmalleſt effect, either upon the proceedings of that aſſembly, or the conduct of the people, who paid an implicit obedience to its determinations. The critical ſituation of the capital was an object of much conſideration; nor was it eaſy to determine in what manner to provide for the ſafety of the inhabitants, and to prevent its becoming a fore thorn in the ſide of the province, if matters ſhould proceed to extremity. From its natural advantages of ſituation, with the works thrown up on the Neck, Boſton was already become a very ſtrong hold; and was capable, with little difficulty, of being rendered a place of ſuch ſtrength, as, under the protection of a navy, would leave but little hope of its being ever reduced. From the ſame cauſes it was liable to be converted, at the diſcretion of the governor, into a ſecure priſon for the inhabitants, who would thereby become hoſtages for the conduct of the province at large.

Different propoſals were ſaid to be made to prevent or remedy theſe evils. One was, ſimply, to remove the inhabitants; another, to ſet a valuation upon their eſtates, burn the town, and reimburſe them for their loſſes. Both theſe ſchemes were found to be clogged with ſo many difficulties as rendered them impracticable. Force was the only expedient which could be applied with ſucceſs; but they did not as yet ſeem diſpoſed to proceed to that extremity. In the mean time, numbers of the principal inhabitants quitted the town, under the real or pretended apprehenſion of immediate violence from the troops, or of being kidnapped and ſent to England, to ſtand trial for ſuppoſed offences.

As ſoon as an account was received at Rhode Iſland of the prohibition on the exportation of military ſtores from Great Britain, the people ſeized upon and removed all the ordnance belonging to the crown in that province, which lay upon ſome batteries that defended one of the harbours, and amounted to above forty pieces of cannon of different ſizes. A captain of a man of war, having waited upon the governor to inquire into the meaning of this procedure, was informed, with great frankneſs, that the people had ſeized the cannon to prevent their falling into the hands of the king's forces; and that they meant to make uſe of them to defend themſelves againſt any power that ſhould offer to moleſt them. The aſſembly of that iſland alſo paſſed reſolutions for the procuring of arms and military ſtores, by every means, and from every quarter in which they could be obtained, as well as for training and arming the inhabitants.

The province of New-Hampſhire had hitherto preſerved a greater degree of moderation than any other of the New-England governments. As ſoon, however, as intelligence arrived of the tranſactions at Rhode Iſland, with a copy of their reſolutions, and of the royal proclamation which gave riſe to them, a ſimilar ſpirit operated upon that people. A body of men accordingly aſſembled in arms [Dec. 14. 1774.], and marched to the attack of a ſmall fort, called William and Mary, conſiderable only for being the object of the firſt movement in the province. This was eaſily taken, and ſupplied them with a quantity of powder, by which they were enabled to put themſelves into a ſtate of defence.

No other acts of extraordinary violence took place during the winter. A firm determination of reſiſtance was, however, univerſally ſpread, and grew the ſtronger by the arrival of the king's ſpeech, and the addreſſes of the new parliament; which ſeemed, in the opinion of the Americans, nearly to cut off all hopes of reconciliation. It is remarkable that all the acts and public declarations, which here were recommended as the means of pacifying, by intimidating that people, conſtantly produced the contrary effect. The more clearly a

determination was ſhewn to inforce an illegal authority, the more ſtrenuouſly the colonies ſeemed determined to reſiſt it. The aſſembly of Pennſylvania, which met by adjournment towards the cloſe of the year, was the firſt legal convention which unanimouſly approved of and ratified all the acts of the general congreſs, and appointed delegates to repreſent them in the new congreſs, which was to be held in the enſuing month of May.

The proceedings were ſimilar in other places, whether tranſacted by the aſſemblies or by provincial conventions of deputies. The convention of Maryland appointed a ſum of money for the purchaſe of arms and ammunition. A provincial convention, which was held at Philadelphia in the latter end of January, paſſed a number of reſolutions for the encouragement of the moſt neceſſary manufactures within themſelves; among which, ſalt, gun-powder, ſalt-petre, and lead, were particularly recommended. They alſo paſſed a reſolution, in which they declared it to be their moſt earneſt wiſh and deſire to ſee harmony reſtored between Great Britain and the colonies; and that they would exert their utmoſt endeavours for the attainment of that moſt deſirable object. But that if the humble and loyal petition of the congreſs to his majeſty ſhould be diſregarded, and the Britiſh adminiſtration, inſtead of redreſſing their grievances, ſhould determine by force to effect a ſubmiſſion to the late arbitrary acts of parliament, in ſuch a ſituation they hold it their indiſpenſible duty to reſiſt ſuch force, and at every hazard to defend the rights and liberties of America.

The aſſembly of New-York, which met in the beginning of the year [January 10. 1775.], was, however, a ſingle exception to the reſt of the continent. In this aſſembly, after very conſiderable debates upon the queſtion of acceding to the reſolutions of the general congreſs, it was rejected upon a diviſion, though by a very ſmall majority. They afterwards proceeded to ſtate the public grievances, with an intention of laying them before the king and parliament; a mode of application in which they were much encouraged by the lieutenant-governor, and from which they preſaged the happieſt effects, flattering themſelves, that when all other means had failed of ſucceſs, they ſhould have the laſting honour of procuring a thorough reconciliation between the mother-country and the colonies: a hope, however fruitleſs, which probably had a great effect on their late determination. It was alſo ſaid, that this method had been ſuggeſted to them from authority in England. They accordingly drew up that petition to the king, memorial to the lords, and repreſentation and remonſtrance to the commons, the inefficacy of which we have already ſeen.

The new provincial congreſs, which met [Feb. 1.] at Cambridge, in Maſſachuſett's Bay, did not deviate from the line which had been chalked out by their predeceſſors. Among other reſolutions they publiſhed one, to inform the people, that from the preſent diſpoſition of the Britiſh miniſtry and parliament, there was real cauſe to fear, that the reaſonable and juſt applications of that continent to Great Britain for peace, liberty, and ſafety, would not meet with a favourable reception; but, on the contrary, from the large reinforcement of troops expected in that colony, the tenor of intelligence from Great Britain, and general appearances, they have reaſon to apprehend, that the ſudden deſtruction of that colony in particular was intended, for refuſing, with the other American colonies, tamely to ſubmit to, what they termed, the moſt ignominious ſlavery.

They therefore urged, in the ſtrongeſt terms, the militia in general, and the *minute-men* in particular, to ſpare neither time, pains, nor expence, at ſo critical a juncture, in perfecting themſelves forthwith in military diſcipline. They paſſed other reſolutions for the providing and making of fire-arms and bayonets; and renewed more ſtrictly the prohibition of their predeceſſors, againſt ſupplying the troops at Boſton with any of thoſe neceſſaries which are peculiarly requiſite for the military ſervice; the markets at Boſton being ſtill open to the ſupply of proviſions. As we have made uſe of a term which has hitherto been unknown in military tranſactions, it may require ſome explanation. By *minute-men* are to be underſtood a ſelect number of the militia, who undertake to hold themſelves, upon all occaſions, and at the ſhorteſt notice, in readineſs for actual ſervice. By their alertneſs they have ſince ſhewn that the name was not miſapplied.

A circular letter from the ſecretary of ſtate for the American department, forbidding, in the king's name, and under

pain of his diſpleaſure, the election of deputies for the enſuing general congreſs, was productive of no manner of effect; the elections every where took place, even in the province of New-York, notwithſtanding the late reſolution in their aſſembly.

Things continued very quiet at Boſton; to which the injunctions of the different congreſſes perhaps contributed as much, as the ſhips of war that crouded the harbour, or the force that was ſtationed in the town. The calm was however precarious and fallacious on both ſides. Combuſtible matter had been gathered in abundance. More was in preparation, and the leaſt ſpark was likely to kindle a general conflagration.

Gov. Gage having received intelligence that ſome braſs cannon were depoſited in the town of Salem, ſent a detachment of troops under the command of a field-officer, on board a tranſport [Feb. 26.], in order to ſeize upon and bring them to Boſton. The troops having landed at Marblehead, proceeded to Salem, where they were diſappointed as to finding the cannon; but having ſome reaſon to imagine they had been only removed that morning in conſequence of their approach, it induced them to march further into the country in hopes of overtaking them. In this purſuit they arrived at a draw-bridge over a ſmall river, where a number of the country people were aſſembled, and thoſe on the oppoſite ſide had taken up the bridge to prevent their paſſage. The commanding officer ordered the bridge to be let down, which the people peremptorily refuſed, ſaying, that it was a private road, and that he had no authority to demand a paſſage that way: For to the laſt moment the language of peace was preſerved, and, until the ſword was deciſively drawn, all reſiſtance was carried on upon ſome legal ground. Upon this refuſal, the officer determined to make uſe of a boat, thereby to gain poſſeſſion of the bridge; but the country people perceiving his intention, ſeveral of them jumped into the boat with axes, and cut holes through her bottom, which occaſioned ſome ſcuffle between them and the ſoldiers in and about the boat. Things were now tending to extremities, as the commander ſeemed determined to force his paſſage, and the others as reſolutely bent to prevent it. In this ſituation, a neighbouring clergyman, who had attended the whole tranſaction, remonſtrated with the lieutenant-colonel, upon the fatal conſequences which would inevitably attend his making uſe of force. And finding that the point of military honour, with reſpect to making good his paſſage, was the principal object with that gentleman, it being then too late in the evening to proſecute his original deſign, he prevailed upon the people to let down the bridge, which the troops took poſſeſſion of; and the colonel having puſhed a detachment a little way into the country, in exerciſe of the right which he aſſumed, they immediately after returned, without moleſtation, on board the tranſport. Thus ended this firſt expedition, without effect, and happily without miſchief. Enough appeared to ſhew upon what a ſlender thread the peace of the empire hung; and that the leaſt exertion of the military would certainly bring things to extremities. The people, ſince the acts for caſting away their charter, and for protecting the ſoldiery from any trial in the province, conſidered themſelves as put under military government. Every motion of that body became ſuſpected, and was in their eyes an exertion of the moſt odious and moſt dreadful tyranny.

This appearance of reſiſtance ſeems, on the other ſide, to have greatly irritated the military; for from this time they appear to have lived upon worſe terms with the inhabitants of Boſton than they had hitherto done; ſome general and wanton inſults, as well as particular outrages, having been complained of: But the criſis was now faſt approaching, in which all leſſer evils and calamities were to be loſt and forgotten in the contemplation of thoſe of a great and ſerious nature.

The provincials having collected a conſiderable quantity of military ſtores at the town of Concord, where the provincial congreſs was alſo held, gen. Gage thought it expedient to detach the grenadiers and light infantry of the army, under the command of lieut.-col. Smith, and major Pitcairn of the marines, in order to deſtroy them. It is ſaid and believed, that this expedition had another object in view, which was to ſeize on the perſons of Meſſrs Hancock and Adams, thoſe great and obnoxious leaders of the faction which oppoſed the new ſyſtem of government. The detachment, which was ſuppoſed to conſiſt of about 900

men, embarked in boats at Boſton on the night preceding the 19th of April, and having gone a little way up Charles-river, landed at a place called Phipp's farm, from whence they proceeded with great ſilence and expedition towards Concord. Several officers on horſeback in the mean time ſcoured the roads, and ſecured ſuch country people as they chanced to meet with at that early time. Notwithſtanding theſe precautions, they diſcovered, by the firing of guns and ringing of bells, that the country was alarmed, and the people actually began to aſſemble in the neighbouring towns and villages before day-light.

Upon their arrival at Lexington, about five in the morning, they found the company of militia belonging to that town, aſſembled on a green near the road; upon which an officer in the van called out, *Diſperſe, you rebels: throw down your arms, and diſperſe;* the ſoldiers at the ſame time running up with loud huzzas, ſome ſcattering ſhots were firſt fired, and immediately ſucceeded by a general diſcharge, by which eight of the militia were killed and ſeveral wounded.

Thus was the firſt blood drawn in this unhappy civil conteſt. Great pains were taken on each ſide to ſhew the other to have been the aggreſſor upon this occaſion. A matter of little conſequence, in a political view, as things were now too far advanced to leave room for a probable hope of any other than ſuch a final iſſue. It was ſaid in the Gazette, that the troops were firſt fired upon from ſome neighbouring houſes. There is ſome obſcurity in this buſineſs, for it appears, from the general tenor of the evidence, as well of ſome of our own people who were taken priſoners, as of a great number of the provincials, all whoſe depoſitions were regularly taken and atteſted by proper magiſtrates, that the firing both at Lexington and Concord was commenced by the troops. Indeed it ſeems evident, that a ſingle company of militia, ſtanding, as it may be ſaid, under the muzzles of our ſoldiers' guns, would have been ſufficient pledges to prevent any outrage from their friends and neighbours in the adjoining houſes.

After this execution, the detachment proceeded to Concord, the commanding officer having previouſly diſpatched ſix companies of light infantry to poſſeſs two bridges which lay at ſome diſtance beyond the town, probably with a view of preventing any of the ſtores from being carried off that way; or, if he had orders about the ſeizure of perſons, to prevent the eſcape of thoſe whom it was his object to ſecure. A body of militia, who occupied a hill in the way, retired at the approach of the troops, and paſſed over one of thoſe bridges, which was immediately after taken poſſeſſion of by the light infantry. The main body having arrived at the town, proceeded to execute their commiſſion, by rendering three pieces of iron cannon unſerviceable, deſtroying ſome gun and other carriages, and throwing ſeveral barrels of flour, gun-powder, and muſket-ball into the river. In the mean time, the militia which retired from the hill, ſeeing ſeveral fires in the town which they apprehended to be of houſes in flames, returned towards the bridge which they had lately paſſed, and which lay in their way thither. Upon this movement, the light infantry retired on the Concord ſide of the river, and began to pull up the bridge; but upon the near approach of the militia (who ſeemed ſtudiouſly to have avoided all appearance of beginning the attack, and made as if they only wanted to paſs as common travellers), the ſoldiers immediately fired, and killed two men. The provincials returned the fire, and a ſkirmiſh enſued at the bridge, in which the former ſeem to have been under ſome diſadvantage, and were forced to retreat, having ſeveral men killed and wounded, and a lieutenant and ſome others taken.

About this time the country roſe upon them. The troops were attacked on all quarters; ſkirmiſh ſucceeded upon ſkirmiſh; and a continued, though ſcattering and irregular fire, was ſupported through the whole of a long and very hot day. In the march back of ſix miles to Lexington, the troops were exceedingly annoyed, not only by the purſuers, but by the fire from houſes, walls, and other coverts, all of which were filled or lined with armed men.

It happened fortunately, that gen. Gage, apprehenſive of the danger of the ſervice, had detached lord Percy early in the morning with 16 companies of foot, a detachment of marines, and two pieces of cannon, to ſupport col. Smith's detachment, and that they were arrived at Lexington by the time the others had returned from Concord. This circumſtance was the more fortunate, as it is re-

ported the firſt detachment had by that time expended all their ammunition; but if that even had not been the caſe, it ſcarcely ſeems poſſible that they could have eſcaped being cut off or taken in the long ſubſequent retreat of fifteen miles.

This powerful ſupport, eſpecially the cannon, afforded a breathing-time to the firſt detachment at Lexington, which they already much wanted. The field-pieces obliged the provincials to keep their diſtance. But as ſoon as the troops reſumed their march, the attacks, as the country people became more numerous, grew in proportion more violent, and the danger was continually augmenting, until they arrived about ſun-ſet at Charles-town; from whence they paſſed over directly to Boſton, under the protection (as the provincials ſay) of the guns of the Somerſet man of war; the troops being intirely ſpent and worn out by the exceſſive fatigues they had undergone. They had marched that day near 35 miles.

The loſs was not ſo great on either ſide, as the length, irregularity, and variety of the engagement might ſeem to indicate; which may be attributed to the provincials not being at firſt powerful in number, and to their being afterwards kept at ſome diſtance by the field-pieces. The king's troops, as may be expected, were the greater ſufferers, having loſt in killed, wounded, and priſoners, 273 men, of which 65 were killed, two lieutenants and above 20 private men taken priſoners, and col. Smith, with another lieutenant-colonel and ſeveral officers, wounded. By the provincial account, which gives the names and places of abode of thoſe who fell on their ſide, their loſs in killed and wounded (including thoſe who fell by the firſt fire in the morning at Lexington) amounted only to about ſixty, of which near two-thirds were killed.

By the neareſt calculation that can be made, there were from 1800 to 2000 of the beſt troops in the ſervice (being about half the force that was then ſtationed at Boſton) employed upon this expedition. The event ſufficiently ſhewed how ill informed thoſe were who had ſo often aſſerted at home, that a regiment or two could force their way thro' any part of the continent; and that the very ſight of a grenadier's cap would be ſufficient to put an American army to flight.

Upon this occaſion each ſide charged the other with the moſt inhuman cruelties. Civil wars produce many ſuch charges; but we have good reaſon, and ſome authority for believing, that theſe accounts, if at all true on either ſide, were much exaggerated. On one ſide it is certain that an officer and ſome of the ſoldiers, who were wounded and priſoners, gave public teſtimonials of the humanity with which they were treated; and that the provincial commanders ſent an offer to gen. Gage, to admit his ſurgeons to come and dreſs the wounded.

Although, on the other ſide, the regulars were charged with killing the old, the infirm, the unarmed, and the wounded, without mercy; with burning ſeveral houſes, and plundering every thing that came in their way; we have had too conſtant and uniform an experience of the honour of our officers, and the humanity of our ſoldiers, not to conſider this account as equally exaggerated.

This affair immediately called up the whole province in arms; and though a ſufficient number were ſpeedily aſſembled effectually to inveſt the king's troops in Boſton, it was with difficulty that the crowds, who were haſtily marching from different parts, could be prevailed upon to return to their reſpective homes. The body of militia, which ſurrounded Boſton, amounted, as it was ſaid, to above 20,000 men, under the command of the colonels Ward, Pribble, Heath, Preſcot, and Thomas, who for the preſent acted as generals, and having fixed their head-quarters at Cambridge, formed a line of encampment, the right wing of which extended from that town to Roxbury, and the left to Myſtick, the diſtance between the points being about thirty miles. This line they ſtrengthened with artillery. They were ſpeedily joined by col. Putnam, an old and brave provincial officer, who had acquired experience and reputation in the two laſt wars. He encamped with a large detachment of Connecticut troops in ſuch a poſition as to be readily able to ſupport thoſe who were before the town.

[*To be continued.*]

OBSERVATIONS *on a* MERCHANT'S LETTER *concerning the Woolen Manufacture.* [P. 45.].

To the PUBLISHER *of the* WEEKLY MAGAZINE.

SIR,

WHEN I troubled you ſome time ago with ſome thoughts about the woolen manufactory at Inveraray, my principal intention was, to ſtir up ſome of my countrymen of greater experience and ſuperior abilities, to favour the public with their opinion of it. And I think I have not loſt my end, when a Glaſgow merchant (who, both from his profeſſion, and the ſenſe and judgment that appears in his letter, can no doubt form a more adequate idea of the ſubject than I can pretend to), has favoured you and (through the channel of your paper) the public with his ſentiments upon the ſubject. I never once doubted, that an attempt to eſtabliſh ſuch a manufactory at Inveraray, would meet with the approbation of all good men and real lovers of their country, and reflect much honour upon the gentlemen concerned. And I am now happy to hear, that men of ſkill in ſuch branches of buſineſs are of opinion, the attempt (for as yet I can call it no more) will be attended with ſucceſs.

As my motive in writing upon this ſubject at firſt was the good of my country in general, and of that part of it where I reſide in particular, provided I am in the leaſt inſtrumental in promoting theſe ends, I don't care a pin whether what I write be thought ſenſible and judicious, or indigeſted and premature. The vanity of a writer will have little influence upon one who only writes (if I may be allowed the expreſſion) in maſquerade; and who has frequent opportunities of hearing his obſervations condemned and applauded, without any ſuſpicions of his being the author. I hope, Sir, I will not incur the imputation of dogmatical or opinionative, tho' I perſiſt in any opinion or aſſertion which I have, according to the beſt of my judgment, formed or advanced, until I be convinced of their futility and falſehood; and therefore, though I have the higheſt opinion of *A Merchant's* ſenſe and abilities, I beg to be excuſed for adhering to ſome things I have already advanced, though contrary to his judgment; becauſe, after the moſt mature deliberation and impartial inquiry, they are agreeable to my own.

I am very ſenſible that there are many things to be taken notice of in a manufactory, which cannot with propriety be inſerted in a public paper; and that it is not neceſſary a perſon who gives his opinion to the public ſhould inquire minutely into the capital employed by any particular company; and therefore, did the promoters of the manufactory at Inveraray make a ſecret of their capital, I ſhould be the laſt perſon on earth to divulge it; but, as this is not the caſe, but on the contrary theſe gentlemen are not in the leaſt ſcrupulous of telling their preſent circumſtances, not only to particular perſons, but in mixed companies, I think I may be eaſily excuſed for giving ſuch a minute account in my laſt paper [xxxiii. 398.]. My intention, as I repeatedly obſerved already, was to induce ſome of your correſpondents to write upon the ſubject; and the more particular accounts they ſhould receive, they could be more capable of forming an adequate idea of it. I cannot therefore help thinking that what I ſaid of the circumſtances of the company was not in the leaſt reprehenſible, but on the contrary highly expedient for the end I had in view.

A Merchant is of opinion that my reflections upon the gentlemen of Argyle-ſhire, on account of their ſmall contributions for the manufactory, are premature, as they only ſubſcribed for what was neceſſary to carry on the work for the firſt year. Any one who attends to what I ſaid upon that particular may eaſily ſee my intention was not to reflect upon the gentlemen of Argyle-ſhire. It is no wonder if, in a county where nothing of this nature was ever attempted before, the gentlemen of property who have, it is preſumed, little knowledge of mercantile affairs, ſhould not ſupport ſuch a meaſure at firſt with the chearfulneſs and ſpirit it deſerved. They probably might have ſuch an extravagant opinion of the difficulties and impediments which muſt unavoidably attend the undertaking, as would deter them from being ſo liberal in their ſubſcriptions as they would otherwiſe be. I think we may naturally ſuppoſe this to have been the caſe, without any reflection upon them.

I make no doubt but their preſent capital may be ſufficient for carrying on the work more than one year. What I ſay is, that, in my opinion, it is too little

for anſwering the benevolent purpoſes for which, I preſume, the manufacture was eſtabliſhed. If the principal deſign of ſetting it up was to employ a great number of families who are turned out of their ſmall poſſeſſions, it is evident this end cannot be attained till they enlarge their capital, and carry on the buſineſs on a more extenſive plan. If the convenience of their preſent tenants, and to give bread to the poor, was the chief motive that influenced the gentlemen of Argyle-ſhire in beginning this manufactory, it follows, that, till their ſtock is ſo great as to enable them to purchaſe a good quantity of wool, and employ a conſiderable number of hands, they muſt fall ſhort of the end they propoſed to themſelves.

I am ſorry I cannot ſee the juſtneſs of *A Merchant*'s obſervations with reſpect to the propriety of beginning with a ſmall ſtock. I ſhould be apt to imagine, that the difficulties attending the infant ſtate of manufactures could be beſt prevented by laying down a good fund at firſt; however, as I am ſenſible of my want of ſufficient knowledge in ſuch matters, I will not be poſitive in this particular; but I muſt obſerve, that *A Merchant* has not given any reaſons to ſhow the propriety of beginning with a ſmall ſtock, except that former attempts to eſtabliſh manufactures upon an extenſive plan in Scotland have failed of ſucceſs; but the gentleman is candid enough to mention the cauſes of theſe failures, ſome of which, as they regard the Inveraray manufactory, are already prevented by the generoſity of the duke of Argyle, and the reſt are to be warded off by a proper knowledge of the buſineſs, and diligence and integrity in carrying it on. If it be from fear of not getting a ſufficient demand for the goods that *A Merchant* would adviſe to begin with a ſmall ſtock, ſuch a fear is groundleſs; for he ſays himſelf, that the proper goods to which the wool ſhould be applied, viz. coarſe goods of equal quality with thoſe made in Kendal and Yorkſhire, always meet with a ready market.

I have often reflected, with a good deal of uneaſineſs, on the ſtrong predilection the people of Scotland have entertained for Engliſh goods. The meaneſt herd in the country will not be happy till ſuch time as he can procure a Sunday's coat of Engliſh cloth. This impolitical ſpirit was no doubt introduced at firſt by our nobility and gentry, whoſe faſhions are always imitated by the bulk of mankind; but, as ſome of the firſt noblemen in the kingdom ſhew ſuch a ſtrong deſire of eſtabliſhing manufactures in our own country, it is to be hoped that the reſt of our nobility and men of property will follow their example; and that the common people will be as ready to imitate their ſuperiors as formerly, which muſt certainly increaſe the wealth and enlarge the commerce of their country, and reflect much honour upon thoſe gentlemen who firſt exerted this patriotic ſpirit, among whom ſome of your ingenious correſpondents claim a particular regard.

Yours, &c. CLAUDIUS.

From the Braes of Cowal, Oct. 18.

Of MILLS *and* MULTURES.

To the PUBLISHER *of the* WEEKLY MAGAZINE.

SIR,

THE different eſſays on agriculture in your Miſcellany muſt afford entertainment to your country readers, which are not a few. A perfect ſyſtem is not to be expected, but ſomething uſeful may be contained in every attempt to illuſtrate the ſubject; and the prudent farmer will reap ſome advantage from others' experience. There is one ſubject nearly connected with agriculture, and which I have not ſeen treated by any of your correſpondents, which is thirlages, or bound ſucken to mills, or *milns*.

It is unneceſſary to inquire when mills were firſt erected. The invention was a great encouragement to agriculture; and it was neceſſary to encourage them. This might induce ſome landholder to thirle his lands to a neighbouring mill, as it was an advantage to his tenants. Others might thirle their lands to oblige a friend or neighbour, preſuming that their own lands did not afford a ſituation for a mill. That antiquated phraſe, *uſe and wont*, might ſubject others. Mills may alſo have been erected by proprietors for the benefit of their tenants and their own profit: But the lands thirled to a proprietor's own mill have not always continued in the poſſeſſion of his deſcendants. A part may have been ſold at one time, and a part at another, and both continued thirled to the original mill.

But it is of little importance to inquire

how the lands of different proprietors came to be thirled to the ſame mill. That the grievance exiſts is certain. A grievance I call it; for the inconveniencies ariſing from it are many and various. Can any thing be more grating to the induſtrious farmer, than to drag his grain for miles through broken and almoſt impaſſable roads, and when he arrives at the hovel of a mill, finds it open above, water enough on the floor, but none to drive the mill: however, at laſt he gets his victual grinded, if haſhing and mangling can be called grinding. It is probably as well as the miller can do it, and he muſt be paid the ſixteenth peck for doing ſo, beſides bannock meal and other dues. What heightens ſuch grievances is, that the farmer may have a mill where his victual would be well grinded when he pleaſed, and not paying above a fourth part of what he does at his thirled mill.

The above is the farmer's ſituation in many parts of the country, and on that account many pay the common thirlage, and grind their corns at what mills they find moſt for their advantage. The tenant no doubt knew all this before engaging with his farm; for it is probable that his maſter could not free him: but thirlage is one of thoſe things that little ſtreſs is laid upon when the bargain is making; and few are aware of the inconveniencies attending it, if it happens, which is often the caſe, that the miller is changed during the currency of the farmer's tack.

Another grievance attending thirlages, is, when one chuſes to ſell growing corns. Here the owner is reduced to the alternative either of obliging the purchaſer to carry the corns to the mill to which the grounds are thirled, or to compound with the miller before ſelling. Scarce any perſon will purchaſe on ſuch terms, as he does not probably chuſe to grind his corn; and if he does, he may rather incline to do it elſewhere. To compound with the miller before ſelling is difficult; at leaſt it puts it in the power of the miller to overcharge the ſeller, if he is greedily inclined, which is often the caſe. The miller is not to be blamed for inſiſting on an equivalent, as he has a rent to pay, and which he no doubt agreed to, upon the firm belief that the produce of the whole thirled land was to be wrought at his mill; but it is peculiarly hard, when the farmer has improven his land much, that the miller muſt have it in his option to demand a ſixteenth part in name of thirlage, even though he ſells it growing, or purſue for abſtracted multures.

Many other grievances will occur to any farmer, ſuch as bad machinery, ſcarcity of water, an unſkilful miller, and (what ſometimes happens) diſhoneſt: Add to this, what is called due ſervice to mill and mill-dam, which muſt be performed at the ſight, and perhaps according to the caprice of an ignorant miller. It is of no importance to the miller, when he depends on the thirlage or ſucken, whether he does his buſineſs well or ill. He knows they cannot go to another; and if they do, they muſt pay him too. Were mills on the ſame footing with moſt other works, the beſt miller would have the beſt buſineſs. This would make them either do their duty, or loſe their buſineſs: And ſurely nothing can be more irkſome to the huſbandman, than, after all his toil and labour, to have his grain ruined by the unſkilfulneſs of a miller.

Convinced of the impropriety of thirlages, many public-ſpirited landholders have aboliſhed that ſervitude as far as relates to their own tenants, and wiſh to ſee it univerſal: But the difficulty is, how this ſhall be accompliſhed. It is unreaſonable to expect that thoſe who have a right to profits of this kind will part with them without an equivalent: But might not a law be framed, obliging every perſon that has a right to multures, from lands that are not his own property, to ſell them to the proprietor. This is the caſe with tiends, which the proprietor of the land can oblige the titular to ſell at nine years value. No certain number of years purchaſe can be fixed as a medium for multures, as the quantity paid differs ſo much, ſome paying as high as a thirteenth part, and others as low as the hundred and twentieth part, or lower.

This laſt aſſertion may ſurpriſe ſome readers. I ſhall briefly account for it. When a proprietor of lands and mill found it neceſſary to ſell ſome part of his land, he continued it thirled to the ſame mill, and obliged himſelf to grind his victual at the rate of one lippie for the load of meal (the 128th part); and, in granting ſuch charters, the ſeller either received a greater price for his lands, or received a greater feu-duty yearly; and,

in ſuch contracts, ſo much money or meal is often mentioned in name of dry multure. In ſuch caſes the perſon who has lands thirled to any mill ſhould not only be freed from thirlage, but receive an equivalent for what he pays in dry multure, as he could not have his victual grinded ſo cheap any where elſe.

At any rate, let it firſt be aſcertained what is an adequate price for grinding a boll of victual, and whatever is paid more, let the perſon who has a right to the thirlage receive twenty or twenty-five years purchaſe; or, if a perſon pays leſs than is ſufficient for grinding, let him receive value from him who has right to the dry multure.

I could ſay much more on the grievances relating to mills and multures; but having exceeded my intended length, and probably your patience, I ſhall conclude, hoping that ſome abler hand will treat the ſubject more diſtinctly.

Yours, &c. NO MILLER.

For the WEEKLY MAGAZINE.

THE YOUNG FARMER.
No. III. [P. 138]

WHILST large tracks of uncultivated land are to be met with in every county (to the great ſhame and loſs of their owners); and as there are both an advantage and ſatisfaction in laying out and breaking up of new ground according to one's own fancy, eſpecially when many acres are to be got for little money; ſuch, therefore, I ſhall recommend to my pupil, who being returned from ſchool, is with me, muttering his young ſtock, which he finds increaſed and multiplied, ſo that he has the fewer to buy. The leaſe drawn, or purchaſe made, our firſt employment is to reconnoitre the premiſes, and ſettle the marches, to prevent future diſputes with neighbours, then to pitch on a convenient and agreeable ſituation to build on, as near as can be found to the center of the farm, and of this deſcription. The dwelling-houſe, offices, garden and orchard, to have a ſouth or ſouth-weſt aſpect; the ground an inclined plain, gradually dipping from the top of a hill till it terminates in a meadow bordered by a river or brook, more eligible if the tide flows up to it; if not, that there be a ſufficient fall of water to turn a mill; for water carriage and water force, either of them, when properly uſed, is an inexhauſtible fund of wealth to an ingenious and induſtrious poſſeſſor.

Before any dwelling is erected, the firſt conſideration is, how it may be ſupplied with water: Therefore I will try to find out a brook or ſpring that is ſoft and durable, and may be eaſily led to the place. If there be a natural ſhelf on that riſing ground about three or four hundred yards from the bottom, it will ſave labour, and determine our choice as to ſituation; if not, the intended ſize of the garden ſhall do it, becauſe I propoſe that the back-walls of the farm-houſe and office-houſes ſhall fence the upper ſide of a long pond, planted with aquatics, cloſe to the meadow; the lower, by two ditches ſcarped off like the *ha ha's*, with ſide-walls four feet within, and eight feet deep without, ſhall make the ſide-fences.—The firſt thing, however, to be done is, to build one of the offices for accommodation of labourers; next a neceſſary houſe; then the area for the farm-yard, to be formed ſo that all the rain that falls in it may, by a gentle ſlope, incline to the center, where a pond about two feet deep is to be made for ducks, geeſe, &c. with a conduit or channel to carry off the water when at a certain height: That done, the water from the brook or ſpring is to be led through the wall, about four feet from its bottom, by help of a pipe falling into a ſtone or wooden watering trough; from thence into the pond; thence by the channel, down one of the ditches, to ſupply the lower ponds; and which by another channel may, when wanted, be conveyed into a channel well fenced with clay, which muſt reach from one ſide to the other along the upper walk of the garden, and, by ſmall openings or holes made in the lower ſide, may at pleaſure be let out to trickle down any of the alleys, which is an eaſier and more effectual way than a watering pot. Thus vegetation may be carried to a great height in the greateſt drought with ſuch a conveniency, whilſt gardeners, who cannot be in this manner aſſiſted, have enough to do with hard labour to keep their plants alive; for, like men and other animals, vegetables drink and perſpire more or leſs according to the different degrees of heat with which they are affected.

My pupil muſt now ſtand on his own legs, and learn to judge for himſelf. It

is therefore fit he ſhould have the deciſive vote in the ſituation and conſtruction of his houſe, in the laying out and improving his fields, as well as in the election of a wife. As theſe are eſſential articles, his determinations ought to be the reſult of circumſpection, good information, and thorough conviction.

Experience ſhews us that the inquiſitive and induſtrious can pick up knowledge and money any where; but few have learned the ſecret of making the proper uſe of them, though one would imagine that the eaſieſt part. The world is a large field to range in, but a man of ingenuity needs not go far from home to make himſelf maſter of both; and he who has acquired the greateſt ſhare of knowledge in any art or profeſſion, is ſure of the other when he pleaſes to apply for it. The method, then, I propoſe that my young farmer ſhould take to enable him to judge how to lay out his money and ground to the beſt advantage is this: Let him attend every church and market within a dozen of miles at leaſt around him, changing his routs every time till he has taken in the whole circle, collecting all the information his ears and eyes can give him, and entering in his journal whatever may be of preſent or future uſe. His theory, aſſiſted by thoſe obſervations, will quickly bring him on a par, if not carry him beyond the depth of knowledge to which moſt of his neighbours are arrived at; and, like a modern author ſtudying the antients, the gleanings from them, added to the fertility of his own genius, will in all probability be productive of ſome things beneficial both to himſelf and the public.

Many uſeful diſcoveries have ſprung from trifling accidents. Glaſs, we are told by Pliny, was firſt diſcovered by ſome people burning dried weed, called *Kali*, on the ſands at the mouth of the river Belus in Syria, to dreſs their victuals; the fixed alkaline ſalt of the aſhes mixing with the ſand by the heat of the fire, both melted and formed into real glaſs.—The magnet or loadſtone is ſaid to have been diſcovered by a country fellow walking over ſome rocky ground where that ſpecies of iron-ore abounded: Having his ſhoes fortified with hob-nails, his feet, like thoſe of decoyed birds perching on twigs armed with bird-lime, were arreſted, and he, with the unthinking crowd, pronounced it to be enchanted ground, till ſome longer heads found out the cauſe.—I am told limeſtone, that uſeful foſſil for the builder and farmer, was firſt diſcovered by a poor man, who built his houſe and fireplace with that ſtone and clay: Contiguous to the fire he found the clay turned to ſtone, and the ſtone to a whitiſh powder, which mingling with the aſhes, and the back-door opening into his garden, where the aſhes were daily depoſited, he perceived that that ſoil was moſt fertile which was moiſtened by rain draining from theſe aſhes; from thence it became a triple diſcovery, at leaſt to him, and which has ſince been of great utility to mankind.—Sea ſalt formerly was reckoned an enemy to vegetation (and is ſo where too much is uſed). A cunning farmer, aſſured of this, and deſirous to enlarge his farm by a cheap leaſe of a contiguous field which was in his landlord's poſſeſſion, to carry his point went the night after it was ſowed, and gave it a ſecond ſowing with ſalt; but was ſadly diſappointed when he ſaw a much better crop than uſual reaped. A ſervant of the farmer diſcovered the ſecret, on which his reſidence there terminated with his leaſe.

The bright colour which is now given to ſcarlet, I am told, was learned by accident: A ſcarlet-dyer turned off one of his ſervants. Neceſſity, the mother of invention, ſhewed the poor fellow how he might earn a penny to keep ſoul and body together, by dyeing a ſmall quantity of worſted in the tin ſauce-pan wherein he uſed to boil his dinner, which being compared with his maſter's, gave a better colour: This got him credit and a great run of buſineſs. The maſter dreading him as a rival, and anxious to be inſtructed, bribed him into his ſervice again, and bound him to dye for him as he had done for himſelf. Agreed: He went to work, and exactly proportioned the ingredients for a large quantity as he had done before in ſmall; but the colour was not equal; therefore he was accuſed of breach of faith and contract, but pleaded not guilty. The diſpute made a noiſe. Luckily for both a phyſician interfered, and bid the maſter make him uſe his own ſauce-pan. He did, it ſucceeded, and the myſtery was diſcovered; that a little of the tin was diſſolved firſt in the aquafortis, then put into the large kettle, which had the ſame effect.

Similar to this, a preſſer of woolen ſtuffs, being in a hurry, put a piece into the preſs before it was ſcoured: The heat of the preſs made the oil run into clouds reſembling watered tabby. The preſſer, inſtead of keeping it ſecret, by which he might have made a fortune, made an apology to the owner, and offered to pay for the damage he had done, telling him he had made that miſtake. The owner, inſtead of being offended, gave him ſeveral pieces to ruin in the ſame manner.

A CARD *to Mr* DAVID LOCH. *By A* FARMER *.

A TWEEDALE farmer preſents compliments to Mr David Loch, and would be happy to ſee his ſignature again in the Weekly Magazine; not that he has any particular queries to put to Mr Loch, or that he wants information on any one particular point, but that the ſubjects which Mr Loch uſually takes under his conſideration, are of ſuch general utility, that he would wiſh never to loſe ſight of them. Although Mr Loch has already ſaid a great deal, and communicated a vaſt fund of uſeful knowledge, yet the Farmer knows that Mr Loch has the promoting his favourite objects ſo much at heart, that he is in the conſtant purſuit of information about them, and has always ſomething new to offer.

The Farmer is conſiderably engaged in the management of ſheep, and would therefore wiſh to know the general ſtate of the woolen manufacture; what progreſs it has of late been making; what encouragements it has met with, and what hopes there are of its thorough eſtabliſhment in this country. Mr Loch's ſpirit of patriotiſm is ſo rare, that it is a pity ever it ſhould lie idle. He has ſaid ſo many uſeful things, and theſe have had ſo good an effect, that it is much to be wiſhed he would always be ſaying ſomething, were it only ſo much as would keep alive that ſpirit which he has the ſole merit of having awakened.

The above is not the requeſt of an individual only. The author of this Card has been in different counties of Scotland, and he has had the pleaſure to obſerve that Mr Loch has the unanimous approbation of this country for what he has done to promote her manufactures and improvements. Mr Loch may conſider this requeſt as the united voice of his country. The inhabitants of the ſheep counties, in particular, have a warm ſenſe of his ſervices, as they are much intereſted in whatever concerns wool and the woolen manufacture.

October 26.

* *It appears from the Notes to Correſpondents in laſt Number, that Mr Loch had anticipated the Farmer's requeſt.*

Mr LOCH's *Obſervations in his late* TOUR *through* SCOTLAND.

To the PUBLISHER *of the* WEEKLY MAGAZINE.

SIR,

THE time which has elapſed ſince my name appeared in your Magazine, may make many believe that I either had left this buſtling world for another which we know very little about, or had found the ſchemes I have been long propoſing, for the good of my country, ſo little attended to, that I was reſolved to give them up intirely, as impracticable to be carried into execution. This letter will effectually convince your numerous readers that the former is not the caſe. I am happy to inform them that neither has the latter been the occaſion of my long ſilence.

I muſt inform you, Sir, that I am juſt returned from a tour through a good part of the trading towns and villages, as well as capital ſtore-farms, in Scotland. It is with real pleaſure I can acquaint you, Mr Printer, and (through the channel of your communicative Paper) your readers, that all the noblemen, gentlemen, farmers and trading people, that I have had the honour to meet with, are happily convinced that promoting the woolen manufacture in all its branches is of the utmoſt conſequence to this country; that they already obſerved its good effects, by introducing a better breed of fine wooled and long wooled ſheep (a moſt valuable object), and likewiſe the increaſe of their number, which has been long and much wiſhed for. Beſides the feeding and cloathing us, and giving bread to thouſands, they afford us light from their tallow, and records to be handed down to poſterity from the vellum which is produced from their ſkins. They manure and enrich the very ground they feed upon, and bring up the natural fine white clover, which is the native plant of Scotland,

All farmers agree, that, where the ſheep go and ted among the heather, they enrich the ground ſo faſt, that the heather fades away in a few years, and the white clover comes up in its place. Moſt farmers are much againſt burning the heather, as it burns the ſoil with it; and the few who are for burning ſay, it ſhould be done before the ground is too dry: but, as it is agreed on all hands that the heather goes off how ſoon the ground is manured with the ſheep, the practice of burning either heather or whins ſhould be totally given over, as the tarring is in a great meaſure laid aſide. Thoſe who ſmear in the fine ſheep countries on Tweedſide only put one Scots pint of tar to fourteen pounds of butter. The greaſe never can hurt the wool; the tar always has that effect, and is of no ſort of ſervice to the ſheep. Let them provide proper winter feeding, and that is all which nature requires for the preſervation of theſe uſeful animals.

Over all my tour (which was from this to Aberdeen by Perth, and home by Dundee; then to Inveraray by Lochlomond-ſide, and home by Greenock, Glaſgow and Lanark; thence by Kelſo, Ladykirk, Dunſe, Haddington, &c. &c.) I met with the moſt cordial and kind reception from all ranks of people, but from none more than from their graces the duke and ducheſs of Argyle. Their condeſcenſion and politeneſs; their inquiries concerning the progreſs of the manufactures and fiſheries of this country; the noble ſentiments and ſenſible obſervations they made, and the propoſals they ſuggeſted for promoting induſtry and virtue in every part of Scotland, particularly at Inveraray, do them, as well as human nature, the higheſt honour. I took the liberty to mention two branches which might be carried on there, and indeed over all Scotland, with little advance of money, to good account, much to the benefit and advantage of all ranks. Were they properly attended to, they would moſt effectually provide for the poor, ſupport charity-work-houſes, and put an end to the begging poor in the ſtreets, which has been long conſidered, by all humane and well-meaning people, as an intolerable nuiſance.

The firſt branch propoſed was ſimply this, to provide wool to be ſpun up fit for knitting ſtockings of all kinds, from 10 d. to 5 s. per pair, on the ſame terms and principles as is done at Aberdeen, which affords a good return to all concerned, and promotes induſtry among the young people, as they begin to knit, both boys and girls, at five or ſix years old. This employment does not keep them from their education, as they can read and work their ſtocking at the ſame time, when they have been ſome time at the buſineſs; and, to prompt them to work in the beginning, I propoſed that they ſhould have one halfpenny out of every three-halfpence they earned weekly; that they ſhould receive, ſee, and feel the money; by which, I am perſuaded, the parents would get more than if they were to pocket all their labour, and the young ones might eaſily be prevailed on to lay out moſt of their ſavings to cloath themſelves, and keep them neat and clean. Small premiums by the public ſhould likewiſe be given annually to the perſons in every town or village who ſpin the greateſt quantity of good woolen yarn, and the perſons at different ages who knit the greateſt number of good ſtockings fit for market.

The other branch I took the liberty to ſuggeſt, was the manufacture of coarſe woolen goods, ſuch as is carried on by the Meſſrs Killgours, on part of Mr Garden of Troup's eſtate, by Gardenſton. Theſe goods are ſold from 1 s. to 4 s. per yard, broad and narrow.—It would be little information to your readers to deſcribe this manufacture, as it is ſo well known over all the country. I have not the leaſt doubt but that hundreds of our people are well ſkilled in it, or that the gentlemen already concerned would refuſe to give every advice and aſſiſtance in their power to thoſe who may be ignorant, in order that the ſame valuable manufacture might be eſtabliſhed in every part of the country. I muſt here notice, much to the honour of Meſſrs Killgours, that they carry it on to a great extent; and the ſum of money they yearly lay out among the farmers in the ſouth of Scotland and north of England, on the article of wool alone, ſurpriſed me to hear mentioned.

The farmers are a reſpectable and deſerving body of people. They enrich their country and themſelves by their public ſpirit in bringing in the beſt breed of long wool'd ſheep from Banbury, Chiviot, Wooler, and every place where theſe are to be had, without regarding

the expence. By theſe means, and by their own care and attention to feed and ſhelter them in the time of ſtormy weather, they better the breed, and increaſe the quantity of wool. It ſurely then becomes the ſtudy of every well-wiſher of his country, to further the laudable attempts of theſe worthy people to increaſe the riches of it, and that cannot be more effectually done, than by encouraging the woolen manufacture in all its branches. This I have all along endeavoured to inculcate on the minds of my fellow-countrymen. Every day's experience convinces me I was right; and, ſince the ſame ſentiments are now happily adopted, and different branches of it eſtabliſhed by the public ſpirit of noblemen and gentlemen in various parts of the country, I ſhould be ſorry, indeed, were the inhabitants of Scotland ſo totally loſt to every idea of true and genuine patriotiſm, and ſo unaccountably blind to their own intereſts, as to refuſe every encouragement in their power to the manufactories already ſet a-going, and to promote the eſtabliſhment of more where there are hopes of their ſucceeding. The method of accompliſhing this deſirable object is eaſy. It is in the power of every perſon, from the peer to the peaſant, to be inſtrumental in it. Every yard of cloth manufactured in Scotland, and wore by its inhabitants, is giving bread to the induſtrious, and ſaving money to the country. It is well known, that every one muſt have cloathing of one kind or other; it is, therefore, taking nothing out of our pockets to ſupport the patriotiſm and public ſpirit which I recommend, as we can be equally well ſupplied with theſe articles at home as abroad. On the contrary, I have no difficulty in affirming, it is the beſt kind of charity we can poſſibly beſtow; it is charity to a native country, which has long been branded by its opulent neighbours with the moſt opprobrious epithets, on account of its poverty; it is charity to our neighbour, who perhaps, with a large family, is deſtitute of bread, becauſe in want of employment.

Yours, &c. D. LOCH.

The PARLIAMENTARY REGISTER.

[P. 145.]

No. IX.

Mr WEDDERBURNE, *Solicitor-General.*

AS we have profeſſed, at the outſet of this undertaking, that we meant to abſtain from all perſonal anecdote, or even to puſh our political inquiries farther back than the memorable period of 1766, we find ourſelves under the neceſſity of taking the firſt notice of this gentleman in that year, in the political *ſuite* of the late Mr George Grenville, ſharing his fortunes, and inſpired by the ſame active zeal for the honour and intereſts of his country. Mr Wedderburne's great talents had not as yet blazed forth in their meridian luſtre; and we do not find that he drew the attention of the public to any extraordinary degree till about the year 1768, in the affair of the Middleſex election, when his patron very conſiſtently took it into his head to oppoſe, in the moſt marked and forcible manner, the expulſion of Mr Wilkes, though under his own adminiſtration, but juſt four years before, the ſame Mr Wilkes was expelled, for the very ſame crime, with the heinous addition of abuſing a ſecretary of ſtate in the newspapers. Mr Wedderburne now exerted himſelf as much in the defence of Mr Wilkes as he ever did before in his condemnation; and at length, to convince ſuch as might not probably be perſuaded that he was in earneſt, he made a public tour throughout the ſeveral ridings, towns, and diſtricts in the extenſive county of York, to warn them of the dangers with which they and all the freeholders of Great Britain were threatened, on account of the late unconſtitutional, corrupt deciſion of the houſe of commons, in the affair of the Middleſex election. So zealous was he in his endeavours to procure ſatisfaction for the wound the conſtitution received by that deciſion; and ſo hoſtile was he, even to his intimate friends, when they differed with him on this point, that having been returned for the borough of Richmond, in *comitatu Ebor'*, through the intereſt of his worthy friend Sir Laurence Dundas, that he applied for the Chiltern Hundreds, ſooner, it was ſuppoſed, than owe a ſeat in parliament to a perſon whoſe political ideas were ſo fatally contaminated by ſentiments and opinions, inculcated by the leaders of a court ſyſtem, which he did not heſitate to reprobate in all its parts.

It is enough to ſay, that he purſued this line of conduct uniformly till the death of his friend and patron Mr Grenville, in the winter 1771, a few days before the meeting of parliament; and that he has ever ſince been as ſteady a friend

to adminiſtration, as he was, while Mr Grenville lived, a warm and able adverſary. Among many other proofs of what is here looſely aſſerted, his conduct during the ſeſſion of 1770, generally called the *horned cattle ſeſſion*, furniſh two very ſtriking ones. The firſt of theſe was Mr Dowdeſwell's motion, "That the houſe of commons is bound, in all matters of election, by the law of the land, and the cuſtom and uſage of parliament being part of the law thereof;" the other, as more particularly militating againſt his preſent conduct, may not be unworthy of public attention.

It was on the 9th of May, 1770, on a motion of Mr Burke's, for the production of American papers, and ſeveral reſolutions moved in conſequence thereof, that Mr Wedderburne, in reply to lord Clare, if we recollect right, delivered himſelf nearly to the following purport: He ſaid, he was really aſtoniſhed to ſee with what eaſe and confidence ſome great ſtateſmen could reconcile the moſt marked inconſiſtencies between conduct and opinion; that his lordſhip had, in his own perſon, not only given the fulleſt teſtimony that ſuch things might happen, but that they were avowed without bluſhing or apology; that ſuch being the fact, he imagined his lordſhip would have been one of the laſt men breathing to charge others with verſatility in politics, when he himſelf could take a poſt at the head of the American department, under a miniſtry that had repealed the ſtamp-act, upon the principle of being againſt all American taxation, though the noble lord but the very preceding ſeſſion ſupported the ſtamp-act with all his might. From the ſhort time it took his lordſhip, and ſome other * great miniſters to ſettle theſe contrarieties, it was evident that the concealed authors of the preſent ſyſtem of American meaſures had the addreſs to unite perſons and parties of the moſt contradictory opinions; and ſuch being the caſe, he truſted it would likewiſe unite their opponents to purſue one ſteady plan of action, that of preventing the impending ruin of this country, by the total *loſs* of its American dominions. —He ſhewed (or he rather predicted) that the meaſures then (and ſince adhered to) purſuing, America, which was in the reign of George II. annexed to, or conſtituted a part of the Britiſh empire, would in the reign of George III. be totally *diſſevered* from it; that the American colonies had ceaſed to be Britiſh dominions, and were no more than Calais, which was once a Britiſh province, though now no longer ſo.—He then turned to the creating a new office, that of ſecretary of ſtate for the colonies, which he inſiſted could not be legally or conſtitutionally done; that the precedent quoted from the reign of Edw. VI. was a miſerable pretext for evading a poſitive law, with the dark deſign of placing a favourite and obſequious willing ſlave at the head of the American department. That obedience was the chief, nay, the only merit, ſought or expected by thoſe who had the diſpoſal and arrangement of all the great, efficient, and reſponſible offices of the ſtate. If that were not the true ſtandard of merit, he was ſatisfied that ſome perſon, whoſe knowledge of commerce, experience in the ſyſtem of our colonies and plantations, whom prudence, firmneſs, and a well-grounded conduct, marked more particularly, would have been fixed on to fill ſo weighty and important a poſt. He was ſorry however, yet he felt himſelf compelled to declare, in the moſt expreſs terms, that the miniſter † put at the head of that ſcarcely legal department, was not fit for it; that his conduct was ſuch as called for his removal; and that he thought thoſe reſolutions, moved by his honourable friend (Mr Burke), led by the juſteſt ſteps to what muſt produce that effect.

This was Mr Wedderburne's celebrated ſpeech; and ſuch were his ſentiments and opinions, and (I am ſorry to add) *predictions*, on the 9th of May, 1770. Pity it is, particularly ſince he was called to aſſiſt the preſent adminiſtration, and was appointed private tutor to the great ſtate Atlas ‡, that he neither believed theſe predictions himſelf, or if he did, that he was never able to perſuade either his pupil, the cabinet, the junto, or his facetious antagoniſt, Robert earl Nugent, of the kingdom of Ireland, to attend to them.

The remainder of Mr Solicitor's political character would cut a better figure by way of diary than any other, could we poſſibly recollect the dates. Diſpenſing, however, with an exact com-

* *Suppoſed to mean the duke of Grafton.*

† *Lord Hillſborough.*

‡ *Lord North.*

pliance to theſe minutiæ, we ſhall ſtudy brevity and faithfulneſs in the following looſe ſketch as much as poſſible. In November 1770 Mr Grenville died; the day after he was buried Mr Wedderburne began, for the firſt time, to diſtruſt his own predictions. During the ſpring ſeſſion 1771, having promiſed to falſify every one of them on the ſame day, viz. on the 23d day of January, he was appointed ſolicitor-general, and cofferer to her majeſty. In the courſe of the next ſeſſion he ſupported the royal marriage-bill, with a credit, logic, and countenance, perfectly peculiar to himſelf.—In 1773 he ſhielded the ſame noble lord, whoſe character and abilities he had treated with ſo much contempt in his ſpeech as above faithfully recited, from the envenomed attacks of his adverſaries, on account of his conduct reſpecting the Caribb lands in the iſland of St Vincent's. He was looked upon, during the ſame ſeſſion, to be the great ſupport of lord North, in the carrying through the bill for new modelling the Eaſt India company.—In fine, he ſupported adminiſtration, through *thick* and *thin*, in every meaſure, but on the motion for reſcinding the reſolution on the Middleſex election; on that occaſion his firmneſs, modeſty, and independent ſpirit, have been rendered moſt eſpecially conſpicuous, inaſmuch as he had either abſented himſelf on that day, or actually divided *againſt* the miniſter.

This part of our taſk draws nearly to an end; and were it not to ſhew the diffidence of the man, and the doubt, nay the actual diſbelief and non-reliance he had on his own predictions, we ſhould never have thought of mentioning the following curious fact, or the conſequences of which it was productive.

On the 9th of March, 1774, lord North having, in a committee of the whole houſe, moved ſeveral reſolutions, declarative of the ſupreme right the legiſlature of Great Britain have to bind America in all caſes whatever, Mr Solicitor roſe, and, in a ſpeech of upwards of an hour long, ſpoke in defence of the reſolutions at large; and, as the firſt ſtep, recommended ſome law which would effectually punith the actors and authors of the late riot at Boſton. Theſe reſolutions, on the report, were ſeverally agreed to, and produced the Boſton-port, adminiſtration of juſtice, charter, Quebec, prohibitory, fiſhery, and capture bills; which ſeveral bills produced the preſent civil war; and which civil war has certainly moſt fully and literally fulfilled Mr Wedderburne's prediction of the 9th of May, 1770, that "the American colonies would, in the reign of George III. be *diſſevered* from the Britiſh empire."

Mr Solicitor General, it muſt be confeſſed, is a correct, methodical, plauſible ſpeaker. His matter is always judiciouſly ſelected, and well arranged. It has the air of logical juſtneſs, and argumentative preciſion. He never rambles from his ſubject, from a want or redundancy of matter. His oratory is uſually chaſte, his pronunciation diſtinct, his emphaſis well placed, and his voice well managed. He is fond of detail, and conveys it to his auditors in a clear, unembaraſſed, comprehenſive manner. His language, tho' ſometimes ſtiff, and approaching to that of the law pedant, is always nervous, technical, and pointed; and he has one advantage over almoſt every man in either houſe, which is, though his ſpeeches bear the appearance of uncommon induſtry and great art, yet he ſpeaks with ſo much fluency, avoiding the extremes of a rapid utterance, or of heſitation and abſence of mind, that every thing he offers ſeems to flow from a knowledge of the ſubject, well digeſted, and leading directly to the cleareſt principles of ſelf-conviction and ſelf-approbation. With all this high cultivation, the joint effect of a good deal of judgment and immenſe labour, the ſoil which he has thus ſo ſtudiouſly ſought to improve, is far from being naturally fertile. His talents are reſtrained within narrow bounds, we mean, in point of native oratory. He never reaches the heart, nor makes a ſingle proſelyte to his opinions through that channel, like ſeveral other of his cotemporaries we could mention. His logic is ſtrongly tinctured with ſophiſm; and his arguments, like ſeveral others, not occupying reſponſible offices, thick-ſown with confident aſſertions, confident predictions, and confident promiſes, never meant to be fulfilled, but merely to anſwer temporary purpoſes in debate.

To thoſe who know him, this ſketch of his parliamentary abilities will be perfectly intelligible; to ſuch as do not, it would take up more of our time than we think the ſubject deſerving of. Let it at the ſame time be perfectly underſtood, that there is no man in England, in or

out of parliament, better formed by nature, education, inclination, and habit, to lead at his pleasure men of a certain size of understanding; men who reason superficially, who have not talents to distinguish the substance from the shadow, who are caught by the trammels and outward garb of truth and reason, but have not strength of intellect to discern their essence: with such men, his speeches on the motion made against lord Clive, on the Quebec, prohibitory, and capture bills, and on the propriety of sending his majesty's electoral troops to garrison Minorca and Gibraltar, without the consent of parliament, or a necessity pretended or stated, will pass as proofs of his powers as an orator, his depth and strength of reasoning as a logician, his abilities as an advocate, and his very extensive knowledge as an accomplished senator.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY MAGAZINE.

The BLACKBIRD. *An* ELEGY.

OFT when the morn in orient gems array'd,
Pour'd dews ambrosial o'er th' odif'rous lawn,
Distant a little from my nest I stray'd,
To woo the beauties of approaching dawn.

Charm'd by the gently modulated song,
The whistling shepherds trac'd the winding lay; (throng,
They crown'd me sweetest of the warbling
And loveliest herald of ascending day.

Perchance if absent at the wonted hour,
Their silence told their anxious doubts and fears;
But ah! my music shall delight no more,
My music wailing, and my morsel tears.

In these dark bow'rs, sequester'd and remote,
Whilst ev'ning shades, and sable night prevail,
O let me roam, and mourn my hapless lot,
And to the silent morn unfold the mournful tale.

'Twas when as usual in my native grove,
I sung unthoughtful, unperplex'd with care;
Smiling to view parental scenes of love,
My infants here! my tender lover there!

When lo! two forms, unlike our rural swains,
Appear'd to saunter thro' th' umbrageous way;
This the wild summit of our mansion gains,
And that beneath a branching poplar lay.

But ah! I tremble to relate the rest!
Close to the boughs the artful ruffian clung,
Exulting, he approach'd the twitt'ring nest,
And ruffian-like seiz'd the defenceless young.

Mean time, directed thro' the trees below,
The rough gun thunders forth exploded fate!
Involv'd in hissing smoke the fiery blow
Slew the fond partner of my wretched state.

Dread blow! alas! unmerited from Man!
Say, could our melody disturb thine ear?
Or say, delight'st thou to behold the pain
Of bleeding nature struggling in despair?

Perhaps some villain, at the midnight hour,
May o'er the cradle shake his murd'ring steel;
Then, while thy chambers stream with infant gore!
Like me by sad experience learn to feel.

For know, that thro' all Nature's boundless sway,
Whether her varied dress, or varied name,
Whether on earth, in air, or in the sea,
Domestic love in gen'ral is the same.

In these dark bow'rs sequester'd and remote,
While ev'ning shades and sable night prevail,
O let me roam and mourn my hapless lot,
And to the list'ning moon renew the mournful tale.

B—— D——.

The forsaken Maid's LAMENTATION.

COME all ye servant maids draw near,
While I my griefs relate,
And when the cruel tale you hear,
O learn to shun my fate!

For I tho' born of humble race,
By curs'd ambition led,
Aspir'd to fill *Rebecca*'s place,
And shar'd my *master*'s bed.

For this I scorn'd poor *Billy*'s love,
Altho' a parson's son;
Whose ever gentle manners prove
His heart was all my own.

My ruſſet gown was laid aſide,
And all my beſt put on;
And every day in all the pride
Of Sunday clothes I ſhone.

For this I ſet my cap on high,
And curl'd my flowing hair;
And, more to fix the wand'ring eye,
I left my boſom bare.

Too well, alas! my wiſh ſucceeds;
Attracted by my charms,
The youth his fervent paſſion pleads,
And claſps me in his arms.

He ſwore by every name in heav'n
He'd take me for his wife;
And as he hop'd his ſins forgiv'n,
Would love me all his life.

While thus he preſs'd my boſom hard,
He breath'd an humble pray'r,
That I would inſtantly reward
A paſſion ſo ſincere.

His ſoft careſſes ſooth'd my mind,
And virtue lull'd aſleep;
My guardian angel ſtaid behind,
And turn'd aſide to weep.

Full many, many months he lov'd
With unabated fire,
And full enjoyment only prov'd
Creative of deſire.

'Till prudence urging the demand,
And careful of my fame,
I claim'd the promiſe of his hand,
To take away my ſhame.

A riſing bluſh his face o'erſpread,
And *Nabal* thus reply'd:
"You have alone your *maſter*'s bed,
But cannot be his bride.

"Well might the world my meanneſs ſcorn,
If I could ſtoop ſo low
To marry one ſo humbly born
And one ſo poor as you."

In vain I urg'd the vows he made,
In vain expos'd my grief,
In vain were all the tears I ſhed,
To bring my ſoul relief.

Too late I then at length perceiv'd,
That all my hopes were gone,
That I'd been cruelly deceiv'd,
And was, alas! undone.

For ſoon diſguſted at my tears,
And tir'd with my charms,
He ſeal'd my bleeding ears,
And left my longing arms.

Another now enjoys the bliſs
For which I humbly ſigh'd,
Whoſe *wealth* has *bought* the venal kiſs,
And made her *Nabal*'s bride.

Was it for this (O fooliſh maid!)
I ſcorn'd the parſon's ſon?
For this alone I dreſs'd my head,
And wore my Sunday's gown.

Did I for this his paſſion crown,
My ſex's pride forego,
And brave the ſcandal of the town,
To be forſaken ſo!

Ah gentle virgins timely wiſe,
Th' impending danger ſhun!
Nor ſeek to pleaſe your maſter's eyes,
Leſt you ſhould be undone.

But from the youth upon the plain
A partner chuſe for life;
For conſtant is the village ſwain,
And happy is his wife.

Then peaceful in your little cot,
Your days ſhall all be ſpent;
And Heaven ſhall bleſs the favour'd ſpot
With freedom and content.

While I for ever muſt deplore
My fooliſh eaſy faith,
And never hope for comfort more,
But in the arms of death.

SERIOUS THOUGHTS *on a* MARRIAGE STATE.

A MARRIAGE life—by many is deſpis'd;
By many ſlighted, and by ſome few priz'd;
But he who knows the joys when once obtain'd,
Will then embrace the union God ordain'd;
No longer then prefer a ſingle life,
Nor dread to take a woman for his wife.

Ah! happy ſtate, where love united reigns,
Where virtue triumphs, and where each diſdains
Suſpicion's jealous fears, which ever tends
To diſunite the moſt united friends.
'Tis then we taſte of joy and real bliſs,
And find that true content with "Marriage" is:

Still let the miſer graſp his wealth and ſtore,
And ſtill his ſordid golden god adore;
While I content, and real bliſs enjoy,
And taſte thoſe pleaſures which can never cloy.

SINCERUS.

HISTORY OF THE TIMES.

OCTOBER 24.—*to* 31.

RUSSIA.

Peterſburgh, Sept. 27.

"ON Wedneſday morning laſt, in the chapel of the winter-palace, the intended great ducheſs was anointed and baptized in the Greek faith, according to the rites of that church, by the name of Maria Fœdorowna.

"On Thurſday the betrothing her to the great duke, with the ceremony of exchanging rings, was performed in the ſaid chapel; after which the foreign miniſters had the honour of kiſſing the empreſs's hand, and making their compliments. Her majeſty dined in public upon the throne, with the great duke and ducheſs, being ſerved by the great officers of the houſehold. The four firſt claſſes of the nobility dined at different tables in the ſame hall. In the evening there was a ball at court, and illuminations throughout the city.

"This morning the ladies and great officers of the court, the four firſt claſſes of the nobility, the foreign miniſters, the officers of the guards, and other regiments here, and of the navy, had the honour of being preſented to the great ducheſs, at her imperial highneſs's apartments, and of kiſſing her hand." *L. Gaz.*

GERMANY.

Hanover, Oct. 11. "A few days ago, col. Faucit took the rout to Brunſwick, in order to proceed further into Germany, to negociate for a greater number of troops for the ſervice of Great Britain."

Hamburgh, Oct. 16. "The great intimacy which now ſubſiſts between the courts of Vienna, Verſailles, and Madrid, can have no leſs a tendency than to overthrow the preſent ſyſtem and balance of Europe. We are aſſured, from the beſt authority, that, within theſe ten or twelve days, a very extraordinary treaty was ſettled between Auſtria, France, and Spain; and that the count de Breteuil, the French ambaſſador at the court of Vienna, ſet out from the latter place to Paris but a few days ago, with the new treaty ſigned by the emperor and empreſs-queen. It is a matter of fact, that orders have juſt been iſſued from the court of Vienna to the reſpective arſenals, to caſt 10,000 pieces of cannon of different ſizes."

SWEDEN.

Stockholm, Oct. 1. "The reports of the four colleges of the finances of La Chambre of commerce, and of mines, on the ſcheme of farming out the cuſtoms of the kingdom, have been laid before his Swediſh majeſty. The terms are to be decided by public auction, on the 21ſt of this month, in the college of La Chambre. The loweſt rate for which the farm will then be offered is to be at 450,000 rixdollars. Each bidder is to give ſecurity, or to depoſit 1000 rixdollars, before he is admitted to the auction; and thoſe who bid higheſt are permitted to aſſociate to themſelves whomſoever they pleaſe, but are to pay an advance of 100,000 rixdollars within a fortnight after the auction. The king has reſerved to himſelf a right to make upon the whole whatever alteration he pleaſes, and even to annul the proceedings of the auction intirely, if he thinks it proper; but is to declare his mind before the expiration of the ſaid term.—Several preliminary alterations have been made in the tariff of the cuſtom-houſe duties; and divers kinds of ſilk-ſtuffs and other manufactures, hitherto prohibited, are allowed entrance on paying 25 *per cent.*"

HOLLAND.

Rotterdam, Oct. 18. "The trade of this place and Amſterdam has viſibly increaſed ſince your diſputes with the colonies: The Dutch iſlands alſo reap the benefit of your diſſenſions, by the vaſt buſineſs they carry on with the Americans.—The produce of the continent of America, which heretofore uſed to be ſo ſcarce with them, is now, I am informed, plenty enough. The placart of the ſtates, to forbid the ſerving the Americans with warlike ſtores, may ſerve to amuſe the people of England, but is laughed at here, as there are ſo many ways to evade it, particularly by clearances to our iſlands, where it is eaſily managed to ſhip them again in other bottoms for the Americans. I ſuppoſe there has been more warlike ſtores in the iſland of St Euſtatia, within theſe laſt eighteen months, than for eighteen years before.

"Tobacco is an article become plenty here, ſeveral ſhips having brought quantities of it to Amſterdam from the Dutch iſlands, where it was trucked by the Americans for other commodities. The Dutch will now begin to ſerve Germany with tobacco, inſtead of the Engliſh. I wiſh the time don't come when it will appear that they have elbowed them out of moſt of their trade.—Their taxes are low, proviſions and wages are cheap; by which means they freight their ſhips cheaper than the Engliſh can do; and what manufactures they make, they produce at market at a very low rate. On the contrary, in England taxes are every day increaſing, proviſions, and conſequently wages, advancing in price: is it therefore to be wondered at, that other nations, not under the ſame circumſtances, ſhould be able to underſell England?—I am told ſeamen's wages in England are up to 50 s. per month, and here they don't coſt above a fourth of that ſum."

FRANCE.

Paris, Oct. 9. "It is reported here as a certainty, that one of the greateſt of the northern powers is going to obtain the port of Arzilla, in the kingdom of Fez, from the emperor of Morocco, inſtead of that Tangiers; and that the dey of Algiers being informed that the ſame power ſeemed to have its eye upon the Zaffarine iſlands, has ſent to the grand ſignior on that affair, who, it is ſaid, has ſent advice of it to all the powers with whom he is in friendſhip."

Extract of a letter from an Engliſh gentleman of fortune at Paris, to his brother in London, Oct. 12.

"I have drawn on you for 100l. as I intend to be preſent at the great horſe race on the plain de Sablons the beginning of next month, which is the firſt, and perhaps may be the laſt I ſhall be at in France for ſome years, as the ſubject of a ſpeedy war with England engroſſes all the converſation in the city. The French miniſter of marine has diſpatched expreſſes to all the ſea-ports of France, with poſitive orders to ſtop every ſeamen belonging to their merchant ſhips as ſoon as the veſſels come into port. Ships of war are now fitting out with the greateſt diſpatch in all the royal docks and harbours belonging to the crown of France. Upwards of 20 recruiting parties are diſperſed in the interior parts of the country to raiſe recruits for the army; and, in a word, the military operations are carried on in this kingdom with as much aſſiduity as if a war was actually declared."

Paris, Oct. 14. "Though great ſecreſy is obſerved with reſpect to affairs in South America, we have certain information, that they are by no means in a favourable ſituation; ſo that there is very good reaſon to believe, that France will ſoon join ſome men of war to the Spaniſh ſquadron, in caſe a reſtitution is not made by the Portugueſe of the poſſeſſions they have taken from the Spaniards near the river la Plata, no advice of which has yet been received.—We have juſt received advice of the arrival of the ſquadrons of evolution at Breſt. Several ſhips have lately arrived at Breſt and Rochfort with timber for ſhip-building from Pruſſia, and it is propoſed to build twelve new men of war this winter. At Toulon they are hard at work to fit out twelve men of war and eleven frigates, and at Rochfort three men of war and nine frigates, which, together with thoſe at Breſt, will make thirty men of war and thirty frigates, ready to put to ſea in caſe of need next ſpring. Two corvettes are going to ſail from Breſt for the colonies."

SPAIN.

Barcelona, Sept. 21. "The ſlaves who made their eſcape from Barbary (as has been before-mentioned) ſay, that, ſince the laſt attempt of the Spaniards againſt Algiers, there are ſix new batteries erected there, one of 18, and the reſt of 12 twenty-four pounders each, with ſome mortars, and 1000 Moors are encamped to guard them."

Extract of a letter from Mr Emanuel Reeves, late maſter of the ſnow Apollo, belonging to Jamaica, who was near a twelvemonth ſince taken by a Spaniſh guarda-coſta, and carried into the Havannah, dated Madrid, Sept. 23.

"The 15th of September laſt my veſſel was taken by a Spaniſh guarda-coſta within ſeventy leagues of Jamaica, and carried into the Havannah, where ſhe was publicly ſold, and the crew, conſiſting of ſeven ſeamen, thrown into priſon. I was myſelf allowed the liberty of walking about, but was not permitted to quit the place, till being informed that the Induſtria, a Spaniſh frigate of 28 guns,

was bound to Cadiz, I wrote a petition to the governor, to permit me to go paſſenger in her to Spain, who at length, after repeated ſolicitations, complied with my requeſt. The Induſtria arrived at Cadiz the 2d inſtant, after a tedious voyage, wherein ſhe loſt nineteen of her crew, who died of a fever, with which the whole ſhip's company have been afflicted; and on the 20th I arrived in good health at Madrid, where I ſoon found my old friend, Mr Watſon, who has been ſo kind as to promiſe to aſſiſt me with money to carry me to England."

Madrid, Sept. 25. "Notwithſtanding the news received here of a ſuſpenſion of arms concluded for a year between the Spaniſh and Portugueſe commanders in America, the preparations to accelerate the departure of our fleet for Buenos Ayres are not relaxed; on the contrary, according to the laſt letters from Cadiz, the fleet was to ſail this week, and they had then begun to embark the troops, and thirteen pieces of heavy artillery. Moreover, they were equipping in all haſte two bomb-veſſels to ſail with the fleet. On the other hand, the provincial grenadiers have received orders to occupy the places of Caſtile, Eſtremadura, Andaluſia, and Galicia, whilſt the militia are to be in readineſs to march on the firſt notice."

PORTUGAL.

Liſbon, Sept. 24. "We ſeem to be very tranquil here reſpecting the Spaniſh armaments. We have nine ſhips of war in America, from 60 to 30 guns, well manned, and commanded by an Engliſh marine general, Don Richard Mas, beſides many ſmaller veſſels. Our fortifications are in a good ſtate, and our forces there amount to 12,000 men."

Liſbon, Oct. 9. "Capt. Emmerſon, a London trader, came in laſt Saturday, and brings an account, that a ſhip from London, laden with wheat and flour, was taken off this port, with a Portugueſe pilot on board, by an American privateer; and this day we have further advice of another ſhip being taken, loaded with rice from America.

"Yeſterday two French traders arrived, the captains of which had both been chaſed by three American privateers in the channel, and off Cape Finiſterre, one of 18 guns, and the other two of 16, which laſt two came up with them.

"On Saturday laſt, an American privateer and ſchooner took an Engliſh veſſel off the Rock of Liſbon. She was a brig without a head, painted white, with a white ſtreak on her ſtern, and a red one under it, and, it is ſaid, was bound to this port from London."

WEST-INDIES.

From the KINGSTON *(Jamaica)* JOURNAL, *Aug.* 3. 1776.

"On the 24th of July laſt his excellency Sir Baſil Keith, governor of Jamaica, publiſhed the following proclamation:

"WHEREAS a great number of negroes in the pariſh of Hanover have been and now are in actual rebellion; and we have thought fit for the ſervice of this our iſland, and to prevent any further attempts by the ſlaves of other pariſhes to join with thoſe already concerned, that for the defence and ſecurity of this our ſaid iſland, and for the immediate ſuppreſſion of the ſaid rebellion, martial law ſhould be put in force. We have therefore cauſed this our proclamation to be publiſhed, hereby commanding and requiring that the articles of war be publicly read upon this 24th day of July, in the towns of St Jago de la Vega, Port Royal, and Kingſton, from which proclamation martial law is hereby declared to be in force."

"On the 25th of July laſt his excellency our governor publiſhed another proclamation, on account of the rebellion of the negroes in the pariſh of Hanover, ſetting forth, "That as there is danger of the inſurrection becoming general, unleſs the greateſt precaution and vigilance be uſed to prevent the ſame; and as the ſtrength of the iſland in white people would be much diminiſhed, by ſuffering the ſeveral ſhips and veſſels in the merchant ſervice to depart from the iſland in the preſent critical and dangerous juncture, and it appearing that the negroes have partly relied on carrying their miſchievous deſigns into effect, on the departure of the ſaid ſhips and veſſels for Great Britain, his excellency has therefore ordered a general embargo to be laid on all ſhips and veſſels within the ſeveral ports of Jamaica, until the cauſes of apprehenſion be removed, and internal peace and tranquillity reſtored and eſtabliſhed."

Kingſton, Jamaica, Aug. 3. "We

hear from Withywood, that a few days ago a negroe-man, belonging to the eſtate of Puſy Manning, Eſq; went to the dwelling-houſe of the ſaid eſtate, and aſked a negro-boy if there was any gunpowder, and where it was lodged; the boy informed Mrs Manning of it, (Mr Manning not being at home): ſhe went into a back ſtore, and took out a jar or jug, and had it brought into the dwelling-houſe, to put it into ſmaller quantities; on opening the veſſel, it was ſo caked together that they could not get it out; upon which ſhe ordered a negro to take an iron crow and ſeparate it, or break the veſſel: In attempting to do it, the crow ſtruck fire againſt the veſſel, and cauſed a terrible exploſion, by which accident Mrs Manning and two negroes were killed, and another ſo much wounded that her life is in danger."

Port Royal, Jamaica, Aug. 6. "His majeſty's ſhip the Antelope, of 50 guns arrived here a few days ſince, after convoying the Weſt-India ſhips through the gulph of Florida, and has brought with her two American veſſels, the one a privateer, named the Merlin, of 18 carriage guns, and 110 men, John Lives commander, and a ſchooner laden with floor from Philadelphia.—The Antelope, on her return to this place, chaſed three other privateers, which ran aſhore; but the Antelope drawing a great deal of water, the captain did not think it prudent to follow them. There has been a great inſurrection of the negroes in Hanover pariſh. Theſe ignorant ſavages, it is much ſuſpected, have been deluded and ſet on to rebel, at the inſtigation of ſome American emiſſaries from the northern continent, who have privately ſupplied them with firelocks, hangers, &c. which they carefully concealed a conſiderable time in the woods."

Extract of a letter from Port Royal, Jamaica, dated Aug. 16. *brought by the John and Mary, capt. Jenkins.*

"Our preſent ſituation is very deplorable. We have been now under arms ever ſince the beginning of Auguſt, on account of an inſurrection of the negroes, who have been exceedingly troubleſome for ſome time paſt, occaſioned by the ſcarcity of proviſions, our ſupplies from America being long ſince cut off. We were in great hopes the execution of about thirty of their ringleaders would have quelled the ſedition; but it has not had the deſired effect, as they ſtill continue very outrageous, and have laid waſte many plantations. A party of the Royal Americans attacked a large body of them, killed 76, and took 84 priſoners, who are under cloſe confinement. A ſhip arrived yeſterday, ſaw a Spaniſh fleet a few days ago of 11 ſail, full of men, which alarms us greatly."

Extract of a letter from a merchant at Barbadoes, Sept. 8.

"The Ranger, a privateer brig of 16 guns, fitted out here to cruize againſt the Americans, has brought into Carliſle Bay an American armed ſchooner of 10 carriage guns, from Breſt, bound to Philadelphia, on board of which were found ſeveral letters; amongſt others was one addreſſed to the hon. John Hancock, Eſq; from one Mr Hamilton, an American gentleman, who has been ſome time at the court of Verſailles; I juſt had a ſight of it, cannot remember the particulars, but have, as near as poſſible, ſent you the contents, which are as follows:

"SIR,

"I have the happineſs to acquaint you, that you may aſſure the congreſs, that the French miniſtry perfectly acquieſce with the propoſals which Meſſrs Needham, Gunning, and myſelf, had the honour to lay before them. They have ſent orders for a number of ſhips of war to be fitted for ſea with all poſſible diſpatch; and a ſtrong ſquadron will certainly ſail from Breſt for Philadelphia early in the month of November; and they will alſo have a very formidable ſquadron, two bombs, and a fire-ſhip, ready againſt ſpring, which they intend to ſend to Quebec.

(Signed) FRED. HAMILTON."

Extract of a letter from a midſhipman on board the Lady Keith armed ſchooner at Jamaica.

"Our admiral ſeeing the neceſſity there was (from the number of ſmall American privateers hovering about the iſlands) to fit out ſome armed veſſels to cruize againſt them, I was therefore, with another midſhipman, a lieutenant, and 50 men, put on board a ſchooner which was purchaſed for government, and in compliment to the governor called after his lady. She is a ſwift ſailer, and we have been very lucky in her, having taken in the firſt three weeks of our cruize two prizes, one of them laden with gun-powder and other ſtores. We

chaſed another American veſſel (a rich one I believe) into St Domingo, where, luckily for her, ſhe got ſhelter. As we are always at ſea, we have taken ſeven prizes, which we have carried into Kingſton, to the no ſmall ſatisfaction of the iſland, four of them being laden with proviſions, which fetched us a very good price from the great ſcarcity; the reſt of the prizes we have turned into money, which is quickly done here, and as quickly ſpent."

AMERICA.

South-Carolina, Aug. 12. "The following letter, dated July 30. was received here a few days ago, by a merchant, from his brother at New-York. As it contains ſome intereſting particulars relative to a plot formed by the Tories in that city in June laſt, we will lay the ſame before our readers.

"A moſt barbarous and infernal plot has been diſcovered amongſt the Tories here. The particulars I cannot give you, as the committee of examination conſiſts of but three, who are ſworn to ſecrecy. Two of Waſhington's guards are concerned; and a third, whom they tempted to join them, made the firſt diſcovery. The general report of their deſign is as follows: Upon the arrival of the troops, they were to murder all the ſtaff-officers, blow up the magazines, and ſecure the paſſes of the town. Gilbert Forbes, gunſmith in the Broadway, was taken and carried before our congreſs, who were then ſitting. He refuſed to make any diſcovery; upon which he was ſent to jail, and put in irons. Young Livingſton went to ſee him early in the morning; told him he was ſorry to find he had been concerned; and, as his time was very ſhort, not having above three days to live, deſired him to prepare himſelf. This had the deſired effect: he aſked to be carried before the congreſs again, and he would diſcover all he knew. Several have been ſince taken, and among them our mayor. It is ſaid their party conſiſted of about 500.

"The mayor has been examined twice, and returned priſoner under a ſtrong guard. We have now 34 priſoners, and many more it is expected will be taken up. A party of our men went over to Long Iſland on the 22d ult. to take up ſome of the Tories; they returned the next day, and brought to town one Downing, who is charged with the helliſh plot. They took ſix more priſoners, and put them in Jamaica goal, on Long Iſland. The Tories made ſome reſiſtance, and fired on our men in the woods. Our people returned the fire, wounded one man mortally, when they called for quarter. I am told the mayor acknowledges he paid Mr Forbes the gunſmith, who is one of the gang now in irons, 140 l. by order of gov. Tryon. On Sunday the 23d ult. the general's houſe-keeper was taken up; it is ſaid ſhe is concerned.

"Major Rogers has been taken up at South Amboy ferry."

Halifax, Aug. 25. "To ſecure us from any attacks that might be made by the provincials, though we are in little fear of them, ten block-houſes have been built, which mount ſixteen guns each, and the troops in garriſon here (regulars I mean) amount to about 2500; they conſiſt of marines, part of the 14th regiment, the royal emigrants, Nova Scotia voluntiers, and Goreham's corps; we have alſo our militia, and that of the dock-yard. Some time ago the dock-yard was ſet on fire, but happily extinguiſhed without much damage; a like accident has ſince happened, and the governor has offered a reward of 500 Spaniſh dollars to find out the perſons concerned in ſetting it on fire, as it was ſuppoſed to be wilfully done. It is believed that the provincials, by their ſpies, were at the bottom of it; ſome ſuſpected perſons were taken up, but diſcharged after examination, as no proof could be produced. We hear that the rebels have forbid, on pain of death, any perſon or perſons holding correſpondence, or trading with the people of this colony. The Yankee Hero privateer was ſold here for 850 l. ſterling to the hon. John Butler, Eſq; who has fitted her out to cruize againſt the provincials. The Liverpool man of war has been very ſucceſsful in taking and retaking of veſſels: one of the latter, called the Nevis, from the iſland of Nevis, and ſaid to be worth 20,000 l. ſterling, he retook juſt as ſhe was entering Boſton Harbour. Upwards of thirty veſſels taken from the rebels, including the retaken ones, have been brought in here."

Virginia, Sept. 2. "A great diſturbance has lately happened in the back

ſettlements amongſt the Indians, on the ſubject of the preſent conteſt between England and her colonies; many tribes having declared in favour of America, and others for the regulars: However, after ſeveral ſkirmiſhes, wherein many were killed on both ſides, the chiefs of ſome other tribes that had remained neuter happily interfered, and made up the breach, to the ſatisfaction of both parties."

Authentic particulars contained in ſeveral letters from different parts of America, by way of *Nantz*.

"That at the late action near Charlestown, one Mr M——, a farmer, commanded at the fort, which was defended with ſuch acknowledged bravery, that the fort, during the whole time of the engagement, contained 220 men, and no more; that they had only ſixteen men killed, and twenty wounded, ſixteen of whom are recovered; that the report, ſo variouſly related, of a man having been hung by the provincials during the heat of the action, was a moſt egregious miſrepreſentation, and was ſuppoſed to have ariſen from the following ſingular fact: The flag-ſtaff of the fort being ſhot down, a provincial ſoldier immediately taking it up, hung his coat on it, and continued to hold it during the greateſt part of the time; for which gallant behaviour gen. Lee amply rewarded him; and the inhabitants of Charlestown, as a particular mark of their eſteem, preſented him with a gold-hilted ſword; that the provincials having conſumed all their powder, were obliged to wait near two hours for a freſh ſupply, which was fetched by men on horſeback from a conſiderable diſtance; and that the people in the fort were chiefly farmers, who had never ſeen a gun fired in anger.

"That two French men of war were arrived in Boſton harbour (the place of rendezvous), waiting the arrival of fourteen others of different rates; and that the whole, when united, were expected to ſail either for New-York or Philadelphia.

"That, after the late affair on Long-Iſland, gen. Waſhington wrote to the congreſs, and had received their inſtructions to quit New-York; and that, in conſequence, he evacuated the city on the 15th of September, and that the regulars took poſſeſſion the day following without oppoſition."

Extract of a letter from Philadelphia, received by way of *Nantz, Sept.* 8.

"The defeat of the provincial forces at Long Iſland was in a great meaſure owing to the bad conduct of lord Stirling, who neglected ſending a proper force for the defence of the heights above Flat-buſh, and by that means afforded Howe an opportunity of ſhewing his ſuperior generalſhip in ſurrounding their lines, inſtead of attacking them in front, as was expected. Only one battalion of rangers, under the command of col. Trail, was left to defend the paſs on the road to Jamaica-plain, where the grand attack was made. The gallant young officer for a long time made head againſt the whole force of gen. Clinton's body of infantry; but as no ſupport was ſent him, after loſing two-thirds of his men, and being dangerouſly wounded himſelf, he made good his retreat, and joined gen. Putnam at Brooklyn. Gen. Sullivan, col. Smith, and major Guy, behaved with great bravery.

"The men were ſo reduced by the camp fever and flux which had prevailed among them, that it is not to be wondered Long Iſland proved an eaſy conqueſt. —Gen. Waſhington is at Kingſbridge; the grand army under his command conſiſts of about 33,000 effective men.—Lee is ordered by the congreſs to make an attack upon St Auguſtine, where little reſiſtance is expected."

Extract of a letter from capt. Henry Barnes, of the Eagle, a ſnow, belonging to Whitehaven, to his owners, dated Rhode Iſland, Aug. 14.

"I ſailed from Barbadoes the 21ſt of June. The wind inclining much to the northward, I could not keep ſo far to the windward of the French iſlands as I wiſhed, and on the third day made Martinique. We then ſtood to the S. E. and preſently had the wind in our favour, and purſued our courſe. Some time after we fell in with a Dutch brig, bound from St Martin's to Amſterdam. We now kept as far to the eaſtward as we could, to hold clear of the Calmings, and on the 12th of July made a ſail aſtern, or rather upon the S. E. quarter. As ſhe ſailed much faſter than we did, ſhe ſoon came up with us, though we little imagined her to be an American privateer, being then in lat. 32. 25. long. 54. At half paſt eight in the night ſhe

fired a gun to leeward—from which we concluded ſhe was an Engliſh cruizer—but were too ſoon convinced to the contrary. When we firſt made the ſloop ſhe appeared large, from the croud of ſail ſhe carried; but, on a nearer ſurvey, we found her to be very ſmall, painted black, with 10 guns, 50 men, and every neceſſary for a cruize. She is called the Montgomery, capt. Buckling. They took out all the Eagle's people but myſelf, the boatſwain, and a boy, and convoyed us to this place.

"I do not expect we ſhall be allowed to quit the country till the ſpring. My people are all well; we are ſupported at preſent at the expence of the owner of the privateer, and indulged with the liberty of going about where we pleaſe, and are in every reſpect treated with the greateſt kindneſs and civility. We are the ſeventh Weſt Indiaman taken by this privateer, and I am informed two ſhips from Barbadoes have been carried into Salem ſince I was brought in here. Numbers of veſſels have been taken coming from the Weſt India iſlands."

ENGLAND.

LONDON, OCTOBER 19.—*to* 26.

A letter from Hamburgh, dated October 15. ſays, "The two Dutch veſſels, commanded by Meſſrs Boll, and the Anglo-American ſhip, commanded by Mr Kidder, which had been ſeized by capt. Pihl, in the Greenland ſeas, which were carried to Copenhagen for being concerned in illicit trade with the Danes, have been releaſed, on condition of their paying all expences."

We hear from Geſle, the capital of the province of Geſtricia, that the greateſt and fineſt part of that handſome town has been conſumed by a dreadful fire, which broke out on the 20th of laſt month, at four o'clock in the morning. The town-houſe, and ſeveral other public buildings, together with 106 private houſes, and a great number of ſtore-houſes, containing corn, ſalt, ſpiceries, and dried fiſh, as well as manufactures of divers kinds, were deſtroyed.

Letters from Leghorn, dated the 4th inſt. adviſe, that by letters received there from Spain and France in the preceding week, they have an account, that, in the courſe of the laſt month, the Algerines had taken 20 merchant ſhips as well Spaniſh as of other nations; that the Corſairs from Sallee had alſo taken two Dutch ſhips; and that ſome American cruizers had taken ſeven Engliſh ſhips near Cape St Vincent; but it is thought theſe latter had been mentioned before.

They write from Carthagena, that the Algerines had taken, on the 7th and 8th of September laſt, two Spaniſh ſhips from Ivica, one of which was laden with barley, the other was in ballaſt.

An authentic letter from Breſt mentions, that the commander of a large naval armament had received ſailing orders, but that his inſtructions were not to be opened until he had reached a certain latitude. The letter is addreſſed to an eminent merchant in the city.

The laſt letters from Spain are filled with the immenſe warlike preparations making there, though all apprehenſions of a war ſeem to be at an end; which make ſome imagine, that a Spaniſh packet having been viſited by a foreign ſhip is the occaſion of it. The army is to be augmented with 15,000 men, beſides the militia.

It was this morning confidently aſſerted, that different fleets, from France and Spain, were to join in a certain latitude, and proceed to America. If this aſſertion ſhould be founded on truth, it will account, in ſome degree, for the ſudden and ſingular fall of the ſtocks.

There is no doubt but France has entered into a treaty with the Americans; and it is confidently ſaid that lord Shelburne hath a copy of it, which he intends to produce at the opening of the ſeſſion.

Lord Stormont finds his ſituation extremely critical at the French court. He has renewed his application for the forbidding Mr Silas Deane's appearing at court, but was rather warmly anſwered, that ſuch a requeſt could not be complied with; on which his excellency ſignified that he ſhould ſoon return to England.

Yeſterday it was ſtrongly reported that lord Stormont had received orders from the court of France to quit the kingdom.—In caſe the report of an event ſo important and intereſting to this nation ſhould prove true, as from preſent circumſtances it appears not without probability, when we conſider all the naval armaments which are preparing in different ports of France, we hope, with all due deference to the higher powers, that every prudent caution will be

adopted to prevent a *ſurprize*, either at home or in Ireland.

A letter from Bengal, of the 12th of March, mentions, that they had accounts of the French and Spaniards preparations for war, which had alarmed them not a little, becauſe they know certainly that the French have a number of troops at Mauritius, which increaſe daily by the arrival of ſingle ſhips from Europe.—— They fear for Bengal, but think that an attack may be firſt made on either of the coaſts where they may be joined by the Marratoes, and other Hindoſtan nations.

Lord Pigot is doing every thing poſſible to put Madraſs in a ſtate of defence, by drawing all the troops together, and putting a ſtop to all private buildings until the fortifications ſhall be completed.

We have it from very reſpectable authority, which might be corroborated with very ſtrong circumſtances, was it prudent at preſent to reveal thoſe circumſtances, that a war with France and Spain is almoſt inevitable; and that miniſtry are ſo certain of this event, that ſome of them are looking out for a retreat, and others to meet it on the beſt grounds they are able.

A letter from St Croix, dated the 9th of September, mentions, that they had juſt received advice from St Kitt's, that a terrible fire broke out at Baſſeterre, and had burnt down two-thirds of that town; but no other particulars are as yet come to hand. The ſame letter mentions, that they have had a hurricane at St Croix, and that it was much worſe in the windward iſlands.

It is aſſerted that the following expeditions are actually carrying into execution by the Americans, viz. Gen. Lee, with 4000 men, has marched againſt St Auguſtine in Eaſt-Florida:—Gen. Schuyler, with 15,000, has croſſed the bay of Fundy to attack Halifax; and one Arnold has re-entered Canada, with 6000 men, by the principal branch of the river St Lawrence. This laſt expedition is aſcribed to gen. Carleton's rejecting the proffered aid of the Indians dwelling near Lake Ontario.—N. B. It is ſaid that Sir Guy is actually recalled, letters having been diſpatched ſome days ago for that purpoſe.

A gentleman, juſt arrived from Charles Town, South Carolina, gives a moſt melancholy account of the great ſcarcity and exorbitant price of many neceſſary articles there. Oſnaburgh linen, which formerly ſold for 10d. a-yard, now ſells for 10s. Bay ſalt, formerly at 3s. a-buſhel, now at 30s.; and pins, formerly at 6 or 7s. per pound, now at 3l. ſterling. Hats, ſhoes, and ſome other articles, not to be had for love or money. It is no uncommon thing to ſee a man with a handkerchief round his head inſtead of a hat.

A letter from an officer on Long-Iſland, adds the following particulars:—"I have been all through their fortifications, and down to the ferry, which goes over to the city, and which is not nigh half a mile broad. It ſeems to me to be deſerted, they purpoſing to make their laſt ſtand at King's-bridge, the only paſs to New-England from New-York iſland, where we are trying every means to cut off their retreat, having paſſed the flat boats that are to carry the army over there by New-York, under a very heavy fire at twelve laſt night. If we are as ſucceſsful as at the heights of Guana, this day week, I am pretty certain, will put an end to the rebellion."

On Tueſday morning arrived at Briſtol, the ſhip Hanover Planter, capt. Harris, from Jamaica, who, on Monday the 23d of September 1776, in lat. 37. long. 66. 46. ſpoke with his majeſty's ſhip Galatea, capt. Jourdon, who gave him the following particulars in writing:

"She left New-York the 19th of September; that gen. Howe had landed the Britiſh army on New-York the 15th of September, on which the rebels abandoned the city, and fled with great precipitation, and great ſlaughter, towards King's Bridge, where they were intrenched to the number of 70,000; that gen. Howe, after having taken poſſeſſion of New-York, was encamped with his army, amounting to 22,000 men, within cannon-ſhot of the rebels; and that it was hourly expected he would make a grand attack upon them."

He further informed him, "That on the 26th of Auguſt, being on her outward-bound paſſage for England, ſhe had retaken the Rachel, Henry, from Grenada, for London, who had been taken about a week before by an American privateer; and that, on the 29th of Auguſt, ſhe retook the Hope, Quince, from St Vincent's, which ſhip had alſo been taken by an American privateer, both which the Galatea ſafely carried into New-York, and left preparing to ſail

for England under convoy of the Briſtol, admiral Shuldham."

The lieutenant of the Galatea, who wrote the above upon the binacle of the Hanover Planter, is George Auguſtus Meyrick.

By the Mary's Goodwill, capt. Lawrence, the following advices are received: That he ſailed from Jamaica with the fleet on the 9th of Auguſt; that they were becalmed on their paſſage upwards of three weeks; that he quitted the convoy with ſeveral other ſhips, and, on the 20th of Sept. ſpoke with the Galatea frigate, in lat. 37. long. 60. who left New-York four days before, and was then out on a cruiſe after the American privateers that ſwarmed in that latitude; he told capt. Lawrence, that he might expect in leſs than 48 hours to be taken, and that he had already re-taken two ſhips, one from Grenada, and the other from St Kitt's, and ſent them into New-York; and further, that the king's troops landed at New-York on the 15th of September. It blew hard at this time, and capt. Lawrence therefore could not hear any thing further from her; but a ſhip in company, bound to Briſtol, and now arrived, on board of whom the frigate ſent her boat, ſays, that ſhe was informed the king's troops, to the amount of 22,000 men, landed on New-York Iſland, and found the city entirely deſerted, and the rebels encamped at King's Bridge, on the eaſt ſide of the continent; and that they had carried all their ammunition and guns up the North River; but that the city had received no marks of their diſpleaſure at quitting it, no part of it having been deſtroyed.

Another account ſays, that lord Howe took poſſeſſion of New-York on the 20th of September, without firing a gun; that general Howe marched immediately towards King's Bridge, and encamped with 22,000 men, within three miles of gen. Waſhington's army, who were ſtrongly intrenched there.

Another account ſays, that the provincials were intrenched behind King's Bridge, to the number of 70,000 men; that before New-York was evacuated a great deal of blood had been ſhed on both ſides, and that gen. Waſhington was for deſtroying New-York, but that the Connecticut men oppoſed it.

An evening paper of laſt night ſays, that on Thurſday evening Mr Jenkins, of Wapping, received a letter from Mr Cheeſeman, mate of the Galatea frigate, dated Sept. 18. which, among other particulars, contains the following: "That the provincials were obliged to quit New-York, and in their retreat loſt between 7000 and 8000 men; that gen. Putnam was taken priſoner; and that gen. Waſhington had loſt an arm; that the loſs of the king's forces is about 1500."

By authority we can aſſure the public, that at four o'clock this afternoon, there was no advice arrived at lord George Germaine's office, relative to the capture of New-York.—But from the ſame authority we can inform our readers, that the letter from Mr Cheeſeman, mate of the Galatea frigate, ſent to Mr Jenkins of Wapping, hath by order been compared with his hand-writing both at the admiralty and navy offices, and found exactly to agree with it, ſo that its contents are now much credited, and clerks are ordered to be in waiting, as an expreſs from gen. Howe is hourly expected.

Several of the nobility yeſterday waited on lord George Germaine, to know if any accounts had been received of an action at New-York between the provincials and the king's forces, when he declared that nothing of the kind had as yet been received from the Howes, but letters were daily expected.

The public have been intereſted all this week with different reports of gen. Howe having made good his landing on the iſland of New-York about the middle of laſt month; a correſpondent of good information ſays, "ſome great men at the head of affairs have received private letters which confirm that event; and that the provincials were purſued with conſiderable loſs till within four miles of their intrenchments at King's Bridge, where it is reported they are at leaſt 70,000 ſtrong, and ſeem determined to riſk a general engagement. Gen. Howe was preparing to attack them with what force he had; ſo that the firſt expreſs expected from the royal army, will, it is hoped, give an account that the campaign is finiſhed with ſomething deciſive. The army agents, it is ſaid, have had orders to ſend circular letters to the officers on the home eſtabliſhments of this intelligence."

On Wedneſday the 23d inſtant, arrived at Liverpool, the ſhip Hereford, capt. Walker, from Grenada, who ſays, in lat. 39. north. long. 49. weſt from London, on the 29th of September, at

day light, he diſcovered a ſloop, in his wake, giving him chaſe; he was ſteering E. N. E. At the ſame time, he ſaw a large ſhip upon his bow, hauling up towards him, and came along ſide, and ſent her boat on board, which proved to be the Unicorn frigate, of 20 guns. At the ſame time the ſloop ſtill kept on, and was ſo near that we could diſcern her colours to be American, thirteen ſtripes. The ſloop came up along ſide of the frigate, before he diſcovered who ſhe was. The frigate, in five minutes, had every ſail ſet, top-gallant yards up, and kept firing vollies of ſmall arms into the ſloop, ſhe making an attempt to get away; but the frigate firing a broadſide into her, laid her on board, and ſtruck the colours, the Americans having quitted the decks. Capt. Walker then run up, and ſpoke the frigate, and they told him ſhe was a ſloop of twelve ſix pounders, two cohorns, full of ſwivels, and, he ſuppoſes, had about an hundred and ſeventy men; had been out of Boſton about ſix weeks; and that there was a ſchooner of ſixteen guns bore E. S. E. from them, and deſired capt. Walker to mind to ſhape his courſe ſo as to keep clear of her: He further told him, that the fleet was all well in ſoundings, with the laſt diviſion of Heſſians deſigned for New-York.

A letter from Briſtol, dated Oct. 23. ſays, "The St James, Wilſon, from Jamaica for this place, was taken the 19th of May, by the Cornet privateer, of 18th guns, and 90 men, who, with the St James, going into Charles-town, were chaced by the Sphynx man of war. The privateer got over the Bar; the St James, drawing too much water, ran on ſhore, and was burnt by the man of war. The mate, who brings this account came to Bourdeaux in the brig Dolphin; ſhe was laden with rice and indigo. Five other veſſels were laden, and bound for the ſame place, when he left Charles-town, and were to carry back powder and ammunition. He further ſays, that the provincials, at the attack of Sullivan's Iſland, loſt twenty-three men killed, and about the ſame number wounded. On board the privateer which took the Blaze Caſtle, were the boatſwain, carpenter, and ſeveral ſeamen belonging to the Anna Maria, Pringle, from Barbadoes to London, which was taken by an American privateer and carried into Rhode Iſland: the men entered on board the privateer as volunteers."

Letters from Liſbon, dated Oct. 11. mention that the Anne, Maddox, and Iſabella, Howard, are arrived there from Newfoundland, with full cargoes of fiſh, and informed them, that they had met at ſea with a ſhip of force on her voyage to England from New-York, but could not tell them any particulars.

Extract of a letter from Briſtol, Oct. 23.

"Yeſterday capt. Carter arrived here, who was taken by the American privateer that engaged the Africa of this port, capt. Baker, on the coaſt of Portugal. He ſays the names of the three perſons who were ſaved belonging to the Africa, are Richard Smith, James Linſey, and James Taylor. Capt. Baker fought the privateer ſix hours, and they were ſo cloſe together as to converſe with each other. Baker declared to the captain of the privateer, that he would not be taken whilſt he had a man to fight. What is very extraordinary, not one of the hands on board the privateer was either killed or wounded."

The following prizes are taken by his majeſty's ſhip the Galatea (beſides two others mentioned lately), viz. The ſchooner Molly, capt. Toby, loaded with flour, wood, and fiſh, from New-England to Hiſpaniola. The ſnow Three Friends, capt. Elderidge, laden with fiſh, oil, and lumber. The ſnow Two Brothers, Shaw, from Virginia, laden with Indian corn and tobacco. The ſnow Polly Ruffus, capt. Gardener, laden with fiſh and lumber. The brig Britannia, Gravel, from the Weſtern Iſlands to Nantucket, with empty caſks. Four of the prizes ſhe carried into New-York.

It is ſaid that the following humane order has been ſent from the war-office to gen. Howe in America.

State of Allowances and Regulations.

"If a wound ſhall be received in action by any commiſſioned officer, which ſhall occaſion the loſs of an eye or a limb, or the total loſs of the uſe of a limb, he ſhall receive a gratuity in money of one year's full pay, and be further allowed ſuch expences relating to his cure (if not performed at the king's charge) as ſhall be certified to be reaſonable by the ſurgeon-general of the army, and inſpector-general of regimental infirmaries, upon examination of the vouchers which he ſhall lay before them.

"If the wounds received ſhall not amount to the loſs of a limb, the charge of curing only ſhall be allowed, certified as above. When any commiſſioned of-

ficer ſhall loſe an eye or a limb as aforeſaid, the commanding officer of the corps in which ſuch man ſerves, ſhall deliver to him a certificate, ſpecifying the time when, and the place where, the ſaid accident happened; a duplicate of which certificate ſhall likewiſe be tranſmitted with the next monthly returns.

"When any commiſſioned officer ſhall be killed in action, his widow and orphan children (if he leaves any) ſhall be allowed as follows:

"To the widow, a full year's pay according to her huſband's regimental commiſſion: to each child, under age and unmarried, one-third of what is allowed to the widow; poſthumous children to be included.

"All perſons dying of their wounds within ſix months after battle, ſhall be deemed ſlain in action.

"The commanding officers of the corps in which the ſlain officer ſerved, ſhall, on demand, give a certificate of his being killed in action to his ſurviving wife and orphans reſpectively, ſpecifying the time when, and the place where, the ſaid accident happened; a duplicate of which ſhall likewiſe be tranſmitted with the next monthly return."

On Wedneſday major Cuyler, and the hon. Mr Cathcart, brother to lord Cathcart, ſet out for Falmouth to embark on board the Lord Hyde packet-boat for America. The former received a valuable preſent, with a promiſe of the firſt vacancy that may happen ſuitable to his rank.

Major Cuyler, who brought over the accounts of the victory at Long Iſland, declares, that about eighteen of Burgoyne's light dragooons killed and took near 300 of the provincials, without the loſs of a ſingle man.

A vigorous attack, we hear, is intended by the minority at the opening of the approaching ſeſſion of parliament, on the ſubject of the Heſſian mercenaries being permitted to murder his majeſty's American ſubjects in cool blood, as is ſaid to have been the caſe at the affair of Long Iſland. But in oppoſition to this charge, it is alledged, that the provincials had detached a party of their beſt rifle-men, particularly to annoy the Heſſians, againſt whom they marched up, gave them their fire, and after doing as much miſchief as they could, laid down their arms and ſurrendered.

The king has declared repeatedly that he will perſiſt in the American war, were it to be at the hazard of his crown, and will next ſummer have a force there ſufficient to finiſh the diſpute in one campaign more. We may look for this being realized, as his majeſty very ſeldom makes ſuch declarations, but is remarkable for keeping them when he does. He is much encouraged in theſe ſentiments by the junto. [*Morn. Poſt.*

A certain great patriot declared, in a very high aſſembly, he never would believe that the Americans aimed at independence till they had openly and authentically avowed it: and it is ſaid he added, "If ever that happens, I ſhall think it the duty of every ſubject of Great Britain to oppoſe them." The event which his lordſhip thought ſo incredible is now come to paſs; he may therefore accept the privy, or any other ſeal, with a ſound conſcience.

A tontine ſcheme, beſides another lottery, are to form part of the ſupplies for the next campaign. Thus the financier, afraid to raiſe money any other way on the public (knowing how much they are galled already), is reduced to tamper with their *worſt* paſſions to obtain it.

The report revives that the national intereſt will be reduced from five per cent. to four per cent. and that it will come before parliament early this ſeſſion. If this curious meaſure ſhould take place, it may buy up the funds for a ſhort time, and precede one year the lowering the three per cents. to two and a half, to the great entertainment of thoſe that love Tory meaſures.

Lord George Germaine lately procured an exact account of the forces which the congreſs would be able to have on foot during the campaign 1777. They conſiſt of 76,000 regulars, 14 ſhips of the line, and 17 frigates, from twenty to forty guns. When his lordſhip laid the account before the king, he would not believe it—aſſerting that it muſt be a mere paper account, without any foundation in truth; but lord George aſſured him he had it from authority he could depend on—that the perſon would ſoon be in England, with every particular relative to raiſing, ſupporting, and paying thoſe men.

Two ſloops of war now at Portſmouth have received orders to cruiſe to the weſtward in ſearch of the provincial privateers.

The Foudroyant man of war, of 74

guns, at Plymouth, is put into commiſſion, and the command given to capt. John Jervis.

It is ſtrongly reported that preſs-warrants are to be iſſued in a few days.

At the Court of St James's, the 25th day of October, 1776.

PRESENT,
The King's Moſt Excellent Majeſty in Council.

"WHEREAS it is requiſite for the public ſafety, in the preſent conjuncture of affairs, to prevent the exportation of proviſions; it is therefore hereby ordered, by his majeſty in council, that an embargo be forthwith laid upon all ſhips and veſſels, laden, or to be laden, in the ports of Great Britain, with black cattle and hogs, beef, pork, butter and cheeſe, or any ſort of proviſions, except fiſh, corn, or grain of any kind, or pulſe; and that the ſaid embargo do continue and remain upon ſuch ſhips and veſſels till further order: But it is his majeſty's pleaſure, that the ſaid embargo ſhall not extend to any ſhip or veſſels that ſhall be employed in carrying proviſions to any of his majeſty's Weſt India Iſlands, or to any of his majeſty's colonies in North America (except the colonies of New Hampſhire, Maſſachuſett's-bay, Rhode Iſland, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jerſey, Pennſylvania, the three lower counties on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia), or to his majeſty's forts and ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa, or the Iſland of St Helena; provided that the owners of ſuch ſhips or veſſels do make oath, on the entry of ſuch ſhips or veſſels, of the due deſtination thereof to the place to which ſuch ſhips or veſſels ſhall be ſo entered to clear out as aforeſaid, and do give ſecurity by bond to the proper officers of the cuſtoms of the port at which ſuch ſhips or veſſels ſhall enter and clear out, with two other able and ſufficient ſecurities, in treble the value of the cargo of ſuch proviſions, for the performance of the conditions therein ſpecified; and do thereby engage, that ſuch ſhips and veſſels ſhall proceed under convoy of one of his majeſty's ſhips, and ſhall not deſert the convoy on their voyage; and likewiſe to produce, within twelve months from the date of ſuch bond, from the proper officer of the cuſtoms of the port to which ſuch ſhips or veſſels ſhall go, certificates of their having delivered their cargoes at the places for which they ſhall have been entered; and no ſuch bonds or ſecurities ſhall be delivered up but on the production of ſuch certificates. And his majeſty is hereby further pleaſed to order, that the ſaid embargo ſhall not extend to any ſhip or veſſel actually retained or employed in his majeſty's ſervice, nor to any ſhip or veſſel which ſhall be laden by the ſpecial order and under the directions of the lords commiſſioners of his majeſty's treaſury, or the lords commiſſioners of the admiralty, with any kind of proviſions for the uſe of his majeſty's fleets or armies. And the right hon. the lords commiſſioners of his majeſty's treaſury, and the lords commiſſioners of the admiralty, are to give the neceſſary directions for carrying the ſame into execution, ſo far as to them ſhall reſpectively appertain.

G. CHETWYND."

A ſimilar proclamation with the above, is publiſhed in the ſame Gazette regarding Ireland.

This day's Gazette contain a proclamation for encouraging ſeamen to enter themſelves on board his majeſty's ſhips of war. All able ſeamen, not above the age of fifty, nor under the age of eighteen, fit for ſervice, who ſhall, on or before the 31ſt of December next, enter themſelves, ſhall receive a bounty of *five pounds* each man, and ordinary ſeamen, fit for ſervice, the ſum of *two pounds ten ſhillings* each man, in lieu of the bounties in the proclamation dated 26th of March laſt.

Lady Howe was on Saturday laſt at the Queen's-palace, and met with a moſt gracious reception from their majeſties. This worthy lady has had the ſingular happineſs of ſeeing three of her ſons head the Britiſh armaments againſt the common enemy. Her eldeſt loſt his life in America in the year 1758, in the arms of victory. In conſequence of his death, the preſent lord Howe acceded to the title, and vacated his ſeat for the town of Nottingham; when the noble lady above mentioned ſent the following addreſs, in favour of her younger ſon, to the public papers; an application worthy of a Roman matron in the virtuous times of the republic, and which could not fail of ſucceſs where the leaſt ſpark of virtue exiſted:

To the Gentlemen, Clergy, Freeholders, and Burgeſſes of the town and county of Nottingham.

"As lord Howe is now abſent upon the public ſervice, and lieut.-col. Howe is with his regiment at Louiſbourg, it reſts upon me to beg the favour of your votes and intereſt, that lieut.-col Howe may ſupply the place of his late brother, as your repreſentative in parliament.

"Permit me, therefore, to implore the protection of every one of you, as the mother of him who has loſt his life in the ſervice of his country.

CHARLOTTE HOWE."

The council held at lord North's houſe at Buſhy-park, on Tueſday evening, at which the earls Gower and Sandwich, the lords Germaine and Weymouth were preſent, was relative to the earl of Mansfield's reſigning his place as lord chief juſtice of the court of King's Bench. It is reported that his majeſty's attorney-general, Mr Thurloe, will ſucceed to the chief juſticeſhip, and the ſolicitor-general to be attorney-general; but who is to fill the ſolicitor-general's place is not as yet confidently ſpoke of.

Though the calling up lord Mansfield to the rank of an earl has given room for ſuppoſing this new dignity to prognoſticate his retirement from the King's Bench, we have ſome authority to ſay, nothing has as yet tranſpired that fixes his retirement as a certainty; and indeed to thoſe who know *his love of buſineſs*, which, from long habits, is converted into little more than a recreation to his mind, it is imagined his lordſhip will fill his preſent department ſome time longer.

It is ſaid that lord Stormont is hourly expected at earl Mansfield's houſe in Bloomſbury-ſquare.

On the 15th current, in conſequence of an advertiſement received by the magiſtrates of Biſhop's Caſtle, from Mr alderman Hewit of Coventry (a ſimilar advertiſement was likewiſe received by the lord provoſt of Edinburgh, and inſerted in the news-papers by his lordſhip's order), George Gilbert junior, and Joſeph his brother, were taken up at that place, for committing divers frauds to a very conſiderable amount. Since which time the father has been alſo taken. Upon his examination, though he admitted the facts as ſtated in Mr alderman Hewit's printed letter, he refuſed giving any account of himſelf, prior to his taking poſſeſſion of Kirkbrookhouſe, and lands at Beckenham in Kent, under the name of George Green.—This appears to be the ſame perſon who had the addreſs to defraud a gentleman of property in the county of Linlithgow, as particularly narrated in a letter, Vol. xxx. P. 350.

SCOTLAND.

EDINBURGH, OCTOBER 31.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman belonging to the board of treaſury at London, to his friend at Edinburgh, dated Oct. 25.

"I congratulate you upon the good news from America. The rebels have evacuated New-York on the 15th of September, which was taken poſſeſſion of by the king's troops. The former loſt 7000 men; Putnam is taken priſoner, and Waſhington has loſt an arm."

On the 5th inſt. the Anne of Burntiſland, Andrew Ray maſter, was taken, near Liſbon, by an American privateer, called the True Blue. Same day ſhe took the Betſey, belonging to London, Matthew Ray maſter; and, ſome days before, another ſhip from the Mediterranean, bound for Dublin, commanded by Iſaac Strutland.

Extract of a letter from Mr Andrew Ray, maſter of the Anne of Burntiſland, to his owners, dated on ſhipboard, off Dover, Oct. 19.

"We left Corke on the 27th of September, and, on the 5th of October, had the misfortune to be taken by an American privateer of eight guns and twelve ſwivels, two or three leagues from Burlins, at ten o'clock forenoon. At ſix o'clock the ſame day, they took a brig belonging to London; and having made priſoners of us all, with a freſh gale of wind, run right out to ſea with both ſhips, till on the 7th, being better weather, the privateer lay to, and having ordered us to hoiſt out our boats, the men belonging to the privateer fell to plundering the prizes of proviſions, and all the ſhips ſtores they could take out of them. They then put on board my ſhip one capt. Strutland, from the Mediterranean for Dublin, and twelve of his men, whom they had taken three or four days before; one capt. Ray, from London for Liſbon, with ſix of his men; and the Portugueſe pilot, whom he had got on board two or three hours before he was taken; and myſelf with my men. The captain of the privateer had previ-

ouſly given a letter to capt. Strutland, making a preſent of my ſhip to the two captains and me, equally amongſt us, a copy of which letter I have ſent you, as they would not truſt me with the original. I know this diſaſter will ſurpriſe you as much as it did me, having no notion that any American privateers were ſo far to the eaſtward. Captains Strutland and Ray inſiſted to have the ſhip carried to London; and we are now off Dover, with the wind at S. W."

Extract of a letter from Aberdeen, Oct. 28.

"On Saturday the 19th current, a fire broke out in the manſe of Kennethmont, which deſtroyed the furniture of one room, burnt down the paper on the wall and pictures, deſtroyed the plaiſter of the roofs of two rooms; but, by the good providence of God, and the ready aſſiſtance of the neighbourhood, it was got under. The accident, it ſeems, was owing to ſome ſparks having the night before dropped down thro' ſome chink in the bottom of the chimney, which, taking hold of the joiſts below, had broke upward, and kindled a ſettee bed. —The furniture of the other rooms was carried out; and though there was a great concourſe of people, yet juſtice to their honeſty requires that it ſhould be told, nothing was ſtolen or miſſing.

"We hear from Elgin, that, late on Monday laſt, the corn-yard of Mr James Duncan, farmer in Longbride, near that place, was ſet on fire, and about fifty bolls of corn and ſtraw totally deſtroyed. This muſt have been done wilfully, as there were no leſs than ſix ſtacks burning at one time.—The perpetrator is not yet diſcovered.

"We hear from Monymuſk, that laſt week there was taken up in the garden there a root of the true rhubarb, which, after being properly dreſſed, and the refuſe taken away, weighed twenty-eight pounds. The plantations of rhubarb at Monymuſk are ſo large and thriving, that after next year three or four hundred weight can be taken up yearly."

We are informed, that the Peggy of Dyſart, Normand, is totally loſt at the Beamer, near Queensferry. The crew ſaved.

BIRTH.

Oct. 19. At Cambridge, the lady of the biſhop of Peterborough, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

Oct. 18. At Paris, aged 46, Monſ. de Clugny, comptroller-general of the finances.

Oct. 19. At ——, lady Calder, relict of the late Sir James Calder.

20. At Forres, aged 74, Mrs Helen Douglas ſpouſe of the late Charles Urquhart of Burdſyards, Eſq;

22. At London, Mr Colin Donaldſon, in the 72d year of his age.

24. At Freeſbank, James Campbell of Freeſbank, Eſq;

25. At Edinburgh, Mrs Eliſabeth Naſmyth, daughter of the deceaſed James Naſmyth of Earlſhaugh, Eſq;

CIVIL PROMOTIONS.

St James's, Oct. 26. The king has been pleaſed to nominate and appoint James earl of March to be firſt commiſſioner of Police in Scotland in the room of the right honourable Charles lord Catheart, deceaſed.

—To appoint John earl of Breadalbane to be vice-admiral of Scotland, in the room of James earl of March.

—To conſtitute and appoint the right hon. George lord Onſlow to be his majeſty's lieutenant of and in the county of Surry, and alſo to be Cuſtos Rotulorum for the ſaid county, in the room of the right hon. Richard lord Onſlow, deceaſed.

—To confirm the election of George-Edward-Henry-Arthur earl Powis, to be recorder of the town or borough of Ludlow, in the county of Salop.

—To grant unto Henry Bunbury and Thomas Bowlby, Eſqrs; the office of comptroller of the accompts of his majeſty's army.

Oct. 23. This day Horace St Paul, Eſq; had the honour to kiſs the king's hand, on being appointed his majeſty's envoy extraordinary to the court of Sweden: As had Morton Eden, Eſq; on being appointed his majeſty's miniſter plenipotentiary to the elector of Bavaria, and miniſter to the Diet of Ratiſbon.

Oct. 25. This day his excellency the marquis de Noailles, ambaſſador from France, had his firſt private audience of his majeſty, to deliver his credentials.—To which he was introduced by the right hon. lord viſcount Weymouth one of his majeſty's principal ſecretaries of ſtate, and conducted by Stephen Cottrel, Eſq; aſſiſtant-maſter of the ceremonies.

To our CORRESPONDENTS.

Mr KHRONE's Idyl came came too late. It is pretty enough, and ſhall appear in our next.

NO BACCHANALIAN's remarks are juſt, but very bluntly expreſſed.

We have been obliged to poſtpone Rocheſter on this occaſion.

The Farewel to the Highlands ſhall have a place.

RUSTICUS on the *Shepherd's Life* is *ruſtic* with a witneſs.

Our other poetical friends muſt have a little patience.